Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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TRIBUTES PAID TO TERROR VICTIMS

Report by Heather Large

TRIBUTES have flooded in from across the region for a Sandwell family who lost three generations in the Tunisia beach massacre.

Adrian Evans, who worked for Sandwell Council, was struck down in cold blood alongside his nephew Joel Richards and his father Patrick Evans, both of Wednesbury.

Around 30 Britons are believed to have been slaughtered after a gunman opened fire on sunbathers in the resort of Sousse.

Schoolboy Owen Richards, Joel's brother, was the only survivor of the family trip.

The quartet were avid Saddlers fans and a shrine has been set up outside Banks's stadium where there is a carpet of flowers, shirts, scarves, flags and messages from fans and heartbroken friends, family and colleagues.

A national one minute's silence will be taking place tomorrow, Friday, at midday, to commemorate all the victims, one week on from when Kalashnikov-wielding student Seifeddine Rezgui went on the rampage.

Mr Evans and his father, 78-year-old Patrick, and 19-year-old football referee Joel, both of Wednesbury, were among the 38 people murdered in the horror attack.

Floral tributes left for Adrian Evans, with a photograph of the Sandwell Council worker, outside the authority's Roway Lane base in Oldbury

Friend Helen Probert's Facebook picture of Patrick, Joel and Adrian

Adrian's friend, David Brookes of Willenhall

Survivor, Owen Richards,16

Sombre

At Sandwell Council where Mr Evans, aged 49, had worked since 1983, a book of condolence has been made available for staff to sign. Assistant chief executive Melanie Dudley said: "The whole organisation is in mourning. The mood is very sombre."

David Brookes attended Walsall FC games with Adrian and the rest of his family. They had been friends for more than 20 years and Adrian, who he knew as 'Ade', would regularly organise trips abroad for friends.

One included going to Prague and then onto the World Cup in Germany. The 47-year-old of Hawkswell Drive, Willenhall, hailed the family. He said: "They were just brilliant, you couldn't fault them at all, everything that has been said is true."

Among those paying tribute were school friends of Joel who attended the University of Worcester. Ross Adomo, aged 19, from Great Barr, said: "He was such a nice, bright lad. He always had a smile on his face, he never had a bad word to say about anyone."

James McMulkin, 16, from Great Barr, is one of Owen's best friends and went to the same school, Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School in Wednesbury.

"It is a massive shock for everyone. We were good friends, a few of us have been friends since we were young. I have spoken to him, he has sent me texts, he's back in the country. Obviously he's completely distraught. We are praying this doesn't change him as a person because he is a lovely lad."

Family friend Helen Probert, who runs a beauty salon in Wednesbury, posted a photograph on Facebook of Adrian, Patrick and Joel, taken as they jetted off on their holiday. She said: "It's absolutely heart-breaking. They were very close, they did so much together.

"Joel was one of the kindest, beautiful souls I have met. His mother Suzy is absolutely devastated to have lost him as well as her father and brother. Her whole world has fallen apart," said Miss Probert, who has known the family for many years.

Another of Joel's friends, Connor Kiernan, aged 20 from Great Barr, said: "He was genuine, it still hasn't sunk in. He was always good at putting a smile on people's faces."

University student Joel, aged 19, was a keen sportsman, playing Gaelic football and also being a referee. He attended Stuart Bathurst in Wednesbury until it came to A-Levels. Headteacher Jeremy Harris was among those who paid tribute to Joel and his relatives at the stadium. He said: "He was a highly intelligent young man. He was a very able sportsman, he excelled in the classroom and the sports field. He was the kind of student everyone respected."

He added they would now be offering support to his brother Owen – who had just done his GCSEs and is getting ready for the next stage in his life – as well as the rest of the family. The 16 year-old is believed to have been grazed by a gunshot wound, but then comforted the injured despite witnessing the deaths of his relatives.

Joel became a football referee in September 2011, aged 16. The next year he became chairman of Birmingham County FA Youth Council. Chief Executive, Chad Ehlertsen said: "No job was too small for Joel and he was always looking to support the development of others. He was an extremely talented referee and incredible young leader with the world at his feet."

In the House of Commons, West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey asked Prime Minister David Cameron if a taskforce could be set up to give agencies and councils specialist support for families affected by the horror.

He said: "Three generations of one family have been killed in this atrocity. The impact on their relatives and the local community has been absolutely devastating."

The Government says it is 'working closely' with the families of those killed in Sousse, and has offered to arrange for the bodies of their loved ones to be flown by RAF plane to Brize Norton in Oxfordshire before being transported on to their home areas.

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BUSINESS

Scaffolding firm set to build its workforce

AN Oldbury-based scaffolding firm will create new jobs after securing two contracts totalling £400,000.

Altrad MTD has secured work with a national facilities management company and its contract withWolverhampton Homes has been secured for a further three years.

Up to 10 new jobs will be created following the boost, bosses have announced.

Managing director Tracey Hutton said: "We have enjoyed strong growth, particularly in the Midlands through our depots in Oldbury, Telford and Loughborough."

TRAFFIC

M5 tailbacks as vehicles collide

DRIVERS faced lengthy delays following a crash involving two cars and a lorry on the M5.

All three lanes of the northbound carriageway between Junction 2 for Oldbury and Junction 1 for West Bromwich were closed while the debris was cleared following the crash at around 7.15am on Tuesday.

Surrounding roads in Oldbury, Tividale and Blackheath were subject to delays throughout the morning as a result.

PLANNING

Demolition date for factory hit by blaze

A PLASTICS factory in Oldbury which was destroyed by a huge fire is expected to be demolished in August, bosses have said.

An application to bulldoze the fire-ravaged remains of the Teknor Apex site in Tat Bank Road has been lodged with Sandwell Council.

It comes as a criminal investigation into the blaze in April continues after fire investigators confirmed they believed it was started by arsonists.

The business has resumed operations from a temporary base since the fire.

At its height fire, 75 firefighters tackled the blaze on April 29.

INSIDE

GET READY FOR ALL THAT JAZZ

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Adrian's a good shout for success

Adrian Holmes

TOWN crier Adrian Holmes has lots to shout about after filling his trophy cabinet with a series of recent wins. The 61-year-old self-employed health and safety adviser is enjoying a season to savour as Sandwell's official crier having already racked up 12 awards for top-three finishes.

And last month he came out top of the heap with victory in the Huddersfield Town Crying Championships.

Father-of-two Adrian, said: "From April through to October I'm busy taking part in all these competitions up and down the country. "It really is a great opportunity to literally shout about Sandwell in so many different towns. I absolutely love it and am very proud to tell people about the borough."

Adrian, from Great Barr, has volunteered as Sandwell's town crier since 2010 after Council leader Darren Cooper hit on the idea of finding someone for the role. The day-long competitions are split into two challenges: the 'home' cry where competitors shout about where they come from in no more than 125 words, and a 'themed' cry in which they are given a subject chosen by organisers.

He added: "In the 'home' cry I talk about the fact Sandwell is in the Black Country. I talk about the fact it was formed in 1974 by the joining of two country boroughs. I go on and explain that there is a mishmash of cultures here in our six towns.

"It always has to start with three cries of 'oyez' and end with 'God save the Queen' so the word limit is tight. It is a bit like Twitter in that you've only got a limited word count and like a modern-day rap you are telling a tale."

Adrian's will be heading to the prestigious Guild of Town Criers Championships held in Trowbridge on July 26.

More than 100 homes seized back by council

MORE than 100 homes have been seized back by Sandwell Council after tenants were caught misusing properties during the past 12 months.

Illegal sub-letting and not using a house as a main home were among the ways residents were found to be flouting tenancy rules.

The council launched more than 200 fraud investigations during the past year and recovered a total of 115 properties.

Deputy council leader Councillor Steve Eling said the authority was determined to catch cheats but it was a growing problem.

"With the increasing shortage of affordable housing and the changes in right to buy legislation, tenancy fraud is becoming even more lucrative to some greedy people pocketing lots of money," he said.

The other ways people were caught misusing properties included not filling out home applications correctly. Some properties were also recovered after they were found abandoned.

Payments

"We have always taken a tough line on fraud in Sandwell but now more than ever we need to make sure that council properties are being used for the benefit of people needing and qualifying for our accommodation."

The council said two people had been convicted of 'right to buy' fraud during the past year. Figures released earlier this year showed the council is owed more than £2 million in unpaid council tax from last year. A total of 19,628 council tax accounts were not paid in full by the end of the 2014/15 financial year, the figures show.

This has left the council needing to chase £2.2m. But bosses say despite the outstanding payments, they have a high council tax collection rate in the borough.

Councillor Eling said he believed some of debt could be down to one late payment rather than a 'substantial' amount of arrears.

He added the authority was confident of recovering cash owed by residents. In September, it emerged that more than 10,000 housing tenants in Sandwell owed money to the council for outstanding rent payments equalling more than £3m.

Milly shows real zest for drink offer

Pupil Milly Cooksey, aged 11, with some of the free drinks given to pupils at King Charles Primary School

HUNDREDS of cartons of orange juice were handed out to schoolchildren in Walsall to mark Chabeel Week in the Sikh community.

Volunteers from national charity, Sikh Relief, visited King Charles Primary School, in Wilkes Avenue, Bentley, to explain about the week and what it means.

Chabeel is a Punjabi word referring to a sweet, cool non-alcoholic drink.

During this week, Sikhs will get together in their local communities and hand out cold drinks to passers-by to remember the sacrifice of their fifth Guru, Arjan Dev ji.

June is one of the hottest months in India, and Sikhs all over the country are seen distributing free chabeel drinks as an act of service.

Drinks are served to all, irrespective of their religious background.

Serving of chabeel also represents the idea of Chardi Kala – eternal optimism, in the Sikh community. Four volunteers visited the school in Walsall on Monday to hand out around 370 drinks. Jess Kaur, of Willenhall, was among them. The 43-year-old, who has been volunteering for more than two years, said: "We explained to pupils what it was all about.

"One of our volunteers gave a talk and they saw a YouTube video.

"This is the first time something like this has ever been done through our charity.

"The pupils were so happy. They really listened and some asked questions."

Seriously hurt victim of massacre in hospital

ONE of the Britons seriously injured in the Tunisia beach massacre is now being treated at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The patient, who medics say is critically ill with life-changing injuries,was among four people flown to Birmingham Airport by the RAF.

A total of 38 people, including Black Country teenager Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick Evans, died after 23-year-old student Seifeddine Rezgui opened fire in the resort of Sousse on Friday.

Lead clinician at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Professor Sir Keith Porter said: "I can tell you that the patient has both life-threatening and life-changing injuries. We're now in the process of programming their onward care."

The injured person arrived in the early hours of Tuesday and has been seen by multiple specialists.

Meanwhile, the solidarity of football fans has been hailed as hundreds have paid their respects to the devastated family who lost three relatives, all Saddlers fans.

A shrine outside Banks's Stadium, with scarves, shirts and messages from supporters across the country has continued to grow in tribute to Tunisia terror victims Joel Richards, Adrian and Patrick Evans. Saddlers boss Dean Smith said: "My thoughts are with the families at this incredibly difficult time. It is an amazing show of solidarity from all football fans following attacks which have surprised and shocked us all."

Website set up for tenants

A NEW website has been set up for tenants in Walsall to report repairs, check their rent statement and pay their bills.

The self-service 'Your Account' portal will let Walsall Housing Group customers – who make up a fifth of Walsall's population – to access services 24 hours a day from their desktop or via the mobile-optimised website.

Kieran Larkin, Director of Business Excellence at WHG said: "We want to ensure all our customers can access our service in the way that suits them best.s.

"As well as requesting repairs, you can make a rent payment and also view your rent history."

WHG customers can register by visiting www.whg.uk.com/. To log-on, a property reference number is required as printed on this month's rent statement.

Baggies warning on child tickets

WEST Bromwich Albion bosses are warning fans they face lengthy bans from The Hawthorns if caught using children's tickets. It comes after a 24-year-old was banned for six years last season for using an under-18 ticket, according to the Albion Assembly.

Rebuild bid for school is step nearer to a reality

A PLANNED rebuild of a West Bromwich secondary school has moved a step closer after the government-backed application was recommended for approval by planning chiefs.

The Phoenix Collegiate Academy campus in Clarkes Lane is among five Sandwell schools being revamped as part of the Government's £6 billion Priority Schools Building Programme.

The school would be completely rebuilt under the plans and only one of the school's current buildings – its learning centre – would remain.

These buildings would be replaced by a single three-storey L-shaped 'superblock'. The school's sports hall would also be extended and refurbished and a new multi-purpose games area added. Planning officers said they welcomed the proposals which would bring 'much-needed' improvements' to the school site.

It comes at a time of major change for education in Sandwell. Last week, detailed plans to build the first new secondary school in the borough in the decade were revealed.

An application to build the school, which would eventually accommodate more than 1,500 children, on the former site of Langley High School in Moat Road, Oldbury, has been lodged with Sandwell Council.

Floozie given a splash of colour

BIRMINGHAM'S landmark Floozie in the Jacuzzi is to be filled with flowers and plants this summer.

The famous fountain in Victoria Square, which has not been fully operational since 2013 due to a leak, will be filled with blooms from mid-July. The city council is looking to fully repair the fountain next year.

Brum's Floozie

Until then, the landmark will be transformed with colourful flowers including in the upper pool housing the Floozie, the lower pool which features two smaller statues and the cascade steps between the two.

The council said a full feasibility study is required to establish the full extent of the problem and the cost and timescale of repairing it.

Bollywood night due at centre

DANCE act Desi Nach are to perform at a Bollywood-themed night at the Cap Centyre in Windmill Lane, Smethwick on July 17 from 6-8.30pm. Tickets are £4 for adults and £3 for children from 0121 565 3273.

Ikea mission to get nearer customers

The first new smaller-style Ikea store

HOME furnishing giant Ikea has revealed plans to test a new range of smaller format stores in the UK.

The idea is to bring Ikea closer to customers who feel the existing giant stores, such as the one at Wednesbury, are too far from their homes.

Gillian Drakeford, Ikea's UK country manager, said the new stores would work alongside the existing big sites, rather than replace them.

They are part of what Ikea says are 'ambitious expansion plans' including the rebuilding of existing stores, opening new branches and updating the Ikea e-commerce site. "We know that consumers in the UK like to shop across many channels and using multiple devices," said Gillian Drakeford. "Order and collection points give us the opportunity to trial new ways of being more accessible to our customers.

"We will start by testing this new format in Norwich. We already have an established online presence in this market but currently our customers in Norfolk have to travel more than two hours to our Lakeside or Milton Keynes stores.

"By introducing an order and collection point in this market we are hoping to bridge the gap between online and in-store shopping and offer customers a more personal service locally."

Ikea says it will set up 'slightly different' new format stores in selected areas to find out more about how customers want to shop. The Norwich store will act primarily as a planning studio, where customers will be able to speak with home furnishing experts for advice when making more complex purchases

Teacher gets life ban for sexual message to pupil

A TEACHER who sent a sexual message over social media to a pupil has been banned from classrooms for life.

Ian Jones admitted 'unacceptable professional conduct' following a string of allegations while working at Grace Academy in Darlaston.

The 40-year-old accepted he sent a pupil a message on Facebook saying 'I wanted to f*** you silly' to a professional conduct panel.

He also admitted posting messages on social media to her using the terms 'tosser' and 'big bum'. He accepted his actions were 'inappropriate', but denied they were 'sexually motivated'.

However, the panel found his conduct was 'sexually motivated'.

Bosses at the academy said he had worked there for five years between 2009 and 2014, without incident, and was assistant principal within the academy leadership team.

Following a professional conduct panel by the National College of Teaching Leadership where Mr Jones admitted a number of the allegations against him, it was recommended he be banned from the classroom for eight years.

Departure

But the recommendation was over-ruled by Alan Meyrick, deputy director of the NCTL, who imposed a lifetime ban.

Mr Meyrick said: "Mr Jones is guilty of a serious departure from the personal and professional elements of the teachers' standards, abuse of his position of trust and a violation of the rights of pupils. In addition his actions were sexually motivated."

The ban was imposed on behalf of Education Secretary Nicky Morgan. The findings of the panel, which heard the case in Coventry, said Mr Jones also talked to the girl about his marital difficulties and his sex life.

Carl Salt, principal of Grace Academy Darlaston, said the school had an excellent reputation for the safeguarding of students.

He added: "In the case of Ian Jones, we took immediate action to safeguard our students by removing him from teaching and conducting our own comprehensive inquiry by the trust.

"As required, we also notified the Disclosure and Barring Service and worked with external bodies including the NCTL and the local authority designated officer."

Mr Jones has the right to appeal.

The open road is ready for business

Councillor Adrian Andrew on the road surface at the bridge on Bentley Road South, which has been reopened after two years

A BUSY Black Country road has reopened as the first stage of a major improvement project is completed.

The northbound section of Bentley Road South from the entrance to European Metal Recycling (EMR) and Marshlands Way roundabout re-opened on Sunday at 5pm after two years.

It followed work being carried out on a new rail bridge along Bentley Road South as part of the £26 million road improvement scheme.

But it comes as a new six month road closure will begin at the southern end of the road from Willenhall Road junction to the entrance of Holland Industrial.

Pedestrian access will largely be maintained along Bentley Road South throughout the project, although a diversion route to the canal tow path may be required at times of the work.

A new railway bridge forms part of the overall revamp of the highways network in the area.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, portfolio holder for economy, infrastructure and development said: "This is the completion of a first major phase of this vital road investment on Bentley Road South."

Other work as part of the scheme includes the widening of Bentley Mill Way, which will remain closed until later this year. There will also be new traffic lights near to the James Bridge aqueduct.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shooting victim recovering well

A MAN shot in the leg following a row in a Smethwick park is recovering well from his injuries, police have confirmed. The victim, aged 38, had surgery in hospital for the injuries to his shin after he was shot with a handgun in West Smethwick Park.

Police said no arrests had been made but inquiries are on-going.

West Midlands Police believe the man responsible for the attack fled from the scene on a BMX bike and headed in the direction of Smethwick town centre. Anyone who has information is asked to call police on 101.

Former council office in auction

A FORMER council neighbourhood office in Tipton will go under the hammer today. A guide price of between £75,000 and £80,000 has been set for the premises on the corner of Sheepwash Lane and Whitehall Road, Great Bridge.

The auction will be held by CPBigwood at Villa Park.

The office was one of a number declared surplus to requirements by the council in 2012. Others included a site in Clifton Lane, West Bromwich and one at junction of St Anne's Road and Lower High Street, Sedgley.

Travellers move to next town

TRAVELLERS have moved onto an Oldbury park – just days after they were told to leave a site in Smethwick.

Sandwell Council said it was working with police after caravans arrived on land, off Pitfields Close. They had previously been at Batch Patch Park in Smethwick but were moved on last Monday. They camped at Oldbury on Wednesday. Leader Darren Cooper said: "The council intends to seek possession of the land as soon as possible."

Delays follow M5 closure after car fire

A CAR fire on the M5 in the Black Country forced the southbound side to close, causing delays.

Crews from Walsall Fire and West Bromwich fire stations attended the blaze between the M6 and Junction 1 for West Bromwich on the M5 southbound at around 1.50pm last Wednesday. The driver, who was towing a caravan, noticed smoke coming from his vehicle but managed to pull onto the hard shoulder before his vehicle burst into flames.

Council green light

PLANS to create a one-stop shop for council services in Tipton have been given the green light. The Tipton Local Centre in the town's High Street will be given a £350,000 extension to create the facility. It will be closed for five weeks in November while the work is completed.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE Confederate flag, now regarded as a factor in the South Carolina church massacre, is cherished by old Southerners as a symbol of what they believe was a cultured, romantic and rural society, laid waste by the brute forces of Northern industry. Steel and iron trampled on cotton. It is a monstrously distorted view of history but it will surely be driven underground and reinforced by the banning of the flag.

"PENSIONER fights for right to kiss his wife" is a typical headline on the tragic story of Thomas and Joan Middleton. He is 87, she is 84 and in a care home with dementia. He wants to kiss her but staff say she complains about his attentions. This is a terrible dilemma, familiar to thousands of families but barely mentioned in the Alzheimer's debate. Joan is Thomas's wife. He loves her but it seems she has no idea who he is. He has become not only a stranger to her but an unwelcome stranger. Like so many dementia victims, she may have no memory of ever having been married. The wicked thing about dementia is that it steals more than one life.

BRITAIN'S favourite gardener utters the gardening term "bastard trenching" and the BBC feels it has to apologise. A viewer emailed: "Alan Titchmarsh just swore on TV. I think that's one of the signs of the Apocalypse." We hacks are not particularly offended by Titchmarsh's b-word. When a story is set in print not across one or two columns but across one-and-a-half columns, it is known as a bastard measure. In metalworking, the same word is commonly used. Files are gauged by their roughness as follows: rough, middle, bastard, second cut, smooth, and dead smooth. Just like people, really.

THE Tim Hunt spat rumbles on. A female correspondent to the Times, supporting the professor's sacking for alleged sexist comments, asks how would men like it if they were referred to as boys. Actually, we boys would not mind in the slightest. And what a lonely, miserable existence it must be to be a woman who never, ever enjoys a night out with the girls.

FARAF Ann Abdul Hadi, 21, represented Malaysia at the South East Asia Games. She won six medals, including two golds. You might imagine she would be roundly congratulated. Not exactly. A bunch of religious leaders and internet trolls have condemned her for wearing a leotard which revealed her "aurat," an Islamic word describing the thigh and genital area. I wonder how many times these men of God had to scrutinise the footage before deciding a sin had been committed. If a few sex-starved clerics spent less time slavering over Faraf's aurat and a little more time admiring her God-given skills, this world would probably be a happier place.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Foreign investment leads to 457 jobs

FOREIGN investment helped create more than 450 jobs in the Black Country in 2014/15, the latest UK Trade and Investment figures show.

The 457 was a 310 per cent improvement on the previous year when 146 were created in the Local Enterprise Partnership area.

The figures also showed that more foreign businesses invested in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP, which takes in the Cannock Chase, Lichfield and Wyre Forest districts, than any other LEP region. It attracted 73 new foreign direct investment projects – nine per cent more than the next highest LEP and created 4,739 new jobs.

Investors included world-famous brands such as Jaguar Land Rover, KPMG, Virgin Media and Amazon.

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP chairman, said: "The figures released by UKTI are testament to the ongoing work that the Black Country LEP is doing, through Invest Black Country and partners, to promote the Black Country as an investment destination.

"Our sector strengths, coupled to the effort we have put into raising the profile of the area, mean that we are at the head of a growing pipeline of enquiries in the automotive, aerospace and construction technologies sectors. The figures continue to highlight that the Black Country is fast becoming the investment hotspot in the UK, and a real contender to London. It produces some of the most amazing metal products in the world, some of which ensure that buildings stand, cars run and stop and that planes fly and land."

50 workers facing redundancy at college

By Rob Cox

AROUND 50 staff at Birmingham Metropolitan College will be made redundant, it has emerged.

The college, which has sites in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster revealed in April up to 250 jobs could be axed due to a reduction in funding.

Bosses had hoped to cut the posts through voluntary redundancies but have now confirmed compulsory job losses will be required.

Andrew Cleaves, Principal and CEO at the college, said: "We have had a good response to our voluntary severance programme and will deliver most of our targeted savings through this scheme.

"Unfortunately, we will need to make around 50 people redundant across the college. We are consulting further with staff to minimise the impact wherever possible.

"As part of our efficiency programme, we are working closely with our key funding partners, including the Skills Funding Agency, who are supporting us through this challenging period."

Challenged

The college currently has 1,600 staff across its campuses but this has been challenged as funding has been cut by a third in recent years.

Mr Cleaves has vowed that current students will not be affected by the job losses and said they were aiming to continue to offer the same range of courses. The news of compulsory redundancies comes weeks after Ofsted inspectors urged the college to make improvements.

Inspectors said too few students achieved their qualifications, especially English and maths. They also claimed attendance to some lessons was poor. But the report did highlight a series of strengths – saying teaching, learning and assessment were outstanding in manufacturing technology apprenticeships.

Earlier this year the college officially unveiled a £5 million makeover of the Stourbridge site.

Memorial unveiled for city suburb

From left , Paul Cork , Bernard Taylor and Roger Withers at the memorial unveiling

A PERMANENT memorial to the men and women of Quinton killed in war has been formally unveiled.

While specific memorials exist for those who died in the First and Second World War, the monument in Quinton Recreation Ground is the first to cover all conflicts. It was put in place in May to coincide with the 70th anniversary of VE Day having been funded by the Birmingham City Council Community Chest.

Bernard Taylor, chairman of the Quinton Local History Society, explained how the desire to have a general memorial came about.

He said: "During the celebrations last year, commemorating the centenary of the First World War, I was asked by the acting head of the Church School if there was such a memorial for Quinton that the children could lay down a poppy wreath.

"Sadly, I replied there was not, and then I thought it was about time that the people of Quinton had their own war memorial, a generic one to all those who had given the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"I approached the councillors and asked if the society could have a grant from the ward community chest. The answer was a resounding 'yes.'"

The unveiling ceremony included prayers led by the rector at Christ Church, Rev Jenny Arnold, hymns, the playing of the Last Post, a minute silence and the laying of a wreath. Later, children from Quinton Church Primary School placed crosses marked with their initials on the memorial.

Complaint lodged over assessment by Ofsted

SANDWELL Council bosses have lodged a complaint with education watchdog Ofsted following its damning assessment of the children's services department.

The council says it is 'unhappy' about the inspection process and is addressing its concerns with Ofsted.

It emerged that the council had made a formal complaint with Ofsted prior to the latest report that branded it 'inadequate' last month. But dissatisfied with the way that complaint has been handled, the council has lodged a further appeal requesting a review of the complaint process.

Matthew Sampson, director of children's services at the council, confirmed the latest complaint had been made at a council scrutiny meeting.

Cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Simon Hackett, said: "We remain unhappy about the inspection process and are using Ofsted's complaints procedure to address our concerns.

"There are a number of stages in the complaints procedure. We had already gone to stage two, then Ofsted published its report.

"Now we have gone onto a stage three complaint. It is now with Ofsted to make a decision."

He added: "At the time the report was published I said I was disappointed Ofsted had said we were inadequate. We have expressed our disappointment in the appeals we have put in and that is what we are continuing to do. We believe we have come a long way in the last two years."

Park makeover bid cash boost

WEST Smethwick Park has come a step closer to a major makeover, after plans for the park scooped £337,350 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund.

Sandwell Council can now go ahead with drawing up £5million plans to improve the historic park.

It's the first part of a two-stage process, which releases initial funding to allow research and planning work to be done for major projects. The council will contribute £48,000 towards the cost of the initial work. The rest of the money has been earmarked and will be awarded at a later date, subject to a second round application.

Plans include a new two-storey pavilion with changing rooms, toilets and a large community room with 180 degree views of the park.

Cosmos launches Greek island flights

HOLIDAY firm Cosmos has marked the start of summer flying to three Greek islands from Birmingham Airport this week. The charter flights, operated by Enterair, to Corfu, Zakynthos and Kefalonia will each operate once a week.

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Course due to help with careers for youngsters

A COLLEGE course has been designed by business leaders to prepare youngsters for working life.

The course for Year 12 students at Q3 Academy in Great Barr is named Aspire and aims to develop students so that they are 'work ready' for life beyond education.

It was launched after Principal Dr Caroline Badyal was told regularly by local businesses that young people did not have the necessary skills when they left full time education to succeed in their working lives.

So to address this issue Dr Badyal commissioned a new course with six modules based on work readiness: Aware, Solve, Present, Inspire, Ready and Experience.

As part of the course external senior leaders give up their time to conduct interviews, allow work shadowing sessions and provide insights into working life. As part of that course the academy invited Deputy Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Julie Webb to talk to students about her life in politics.

Councillor Webb said: "I had a great morning with the students at Q3 Academy."

As part of the talk Councillor Webb talked about her life as a councillor and deputy mayor and allowed 16-year-old-student Mathew Johwa to try on her robes of office.

Anyone at a school or academy who would like to hear more about the Aspire course can contact the Academy on 0121 358 8571 for more information.

Busy few months for fundraisers

FROM a sponsored abseil to bag packing and a summer fair – a busy few months lie ahead for Walsall Healthcare Charity. But fundraisers are appealing for local people across the borough to help spread the word about events as well as offer their support.

Fundraising officer Youla Steven, is keen to hear from patients past and present, residents of all ages and anyone interested in helping the Manor Hospital and community services make improvements.

"Our first big event is an abseil off The New Art Gallery on July 4. Full training will be given on the day. Thanks to sponsorship from Evans Halshaw the entry fee is now only £20." If people raise a minimum of £120 in sponsorship, there is no fee."

Gas mains work to see closure

A ROAD in Wednesbury will be closed for the next three weeks while new gas mains are fitted. Roberts Road, off the busy Walsall Road, is expected to be shut until July 17. Iron pipes are to be replaced with plastic ones.

£35m building on track for store

The John Lewis store at Grand Central

THIS is the first glimpse inside the new £35 million John Lewis store set to bring a bit of glamour to Birmingham city centre when it opens in September.

One of the largest John Lewis shops outside of London, the floor area will cover 250,000 sq ft - the equivalent of three and a half football pitches.

The shop will be the anchor tenant of the new Grand Central retail development, which sits over the redeveloped New Street Station.

Work is under way to fit the inside of the department store including around 150,695 sq of ceramic flooring – enough to tile four Olympic-sized swimming pools. The fourth floor is already taking shape and is being fitted out with shop furnishings.

There are 200 contractors on site every day but as the opening date draws nearer, there will soon be up to 800 workers putting the final touches to the development. The ground floor will house beauty, menswear and accessories, while the first floor will boast womenswear and accessories and the customer collection point.

The second floor is home, lighting and fabrics and the shoppers will be able to enjoy a bite to eat on the third floor in the restaurant, and browse the technology, childrenswear and nursery departments. Ten miles of sprinkler pipework weighing 76 tons will be installed which laid end to end would stretch from the shop door to the outskirts of Wolverhampton.

The massive store, which is housed in a landmark four-storey building, will be the anchor tenant of the new Grand Central retail development, which sits over the redeveloped New Street Station.

Quarter of schools in 'inadequate' rating

A QUARTER of schools and academies in Walsall have been rated inadequate or require improvement by education watchdogs, a new report has showed.

Out of the 120 nursery, primary and secondary schools in the borough, 32 were given the ratings in their latest Ofsted inspections.

The figures come from a scrutiny of education performance and is a year after a separate report by Ofsted which rated the council ineffective at supporting schools.

In response to the latest report, education chiefs at Walsall Council have set an action plan to drive up standards and have insisted significant improvements have been made.

According to the scrutiny report, eight of Walsall's schools are currently placed under special measures with three being removed from the order from October last year.

The report shows that four of Walsall's eight secondary academies have been rated inadequate by Ofsted including West Walsall E-Act Academy, The Mirus Academy, Ormiston Shelfied Academy and the Black Country University Technical College, which is set to close later this summer.

Improvement

However, the report does reflect the good work done in all of the borough's eight nursery schools with them all being rated as outstanding.

Councillor Peter Smith, who is the chairman of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, said: "There are 64,000 young people in Walsall and a big percentage of them are going to an inadequate school or one which requires improvement. This is concerning for the people of Walsall.

"And what these figures also show is exactly the opposite of the message being portrayed to the public that turning primary schools into academies will improve performance levels.

"These figures show that four of the secondary schools which turned into academies in Walsall are currently inadequate."

An action plan drawn up by council chiefs includes working on a number of key priorities to help the borough's education performance rise up again. To help improve performance of schools, Walsall Council has formed a new education challenge board which consists of councillors, headteachers, governors and officers from children's services.

Superheroes in charity dance

Starmakers Dance Academy, front, from left are Milan Lanns, aged 11 and Caitlin Lockyer, 12

IT was not the usual dance session at a Black Country academy, which hosted a very special meeting to raise money for charity.

Superman, Mario and Luigi and a fair few princesses were among youngsters who danced in fancy dress at the Starmakers Dance Academy in Great Barr on Friday.

The event saw all classes brought together for the one-off dance, with around 65 members aged between three and 18 throwing some shapes for around an hour, with siblings and even parents also getting in on the act.

It was inspired by Macmillan Cancer's Dress up and Dance campaign and parents were asked to donate £2.50 for each child that took part.

Dance teacher Donna Leach lead the dressed-up dancers through various routines during the fun-filled session, in which, naturally, a few party favourites blared from the speakers at the Tanhouse Community Centre in Hamstead Road, where the academy is based.

She said: "It was a party-style event and we did have a couple of parents who did it as well."

The fancy dress dance is thought to have raised more than £200 for Macmillan and Donna, aged 29, said she would be happy to host it again at some point in the future.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl in accident fractures skull

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was left with a fractured skull after being hit by a car in Smethwick.

Police investigating the crash suspect the driver of the car may have been unaware she had hit the girl. The woman, who is being treated as a significant witness, stopped at the scene but left before officers could talk to her. The girl was walking in St Pauls Road at around 3.30pm, last Wednesday when she was hit.

The CCTV image

Sgt Steve Newbury, from the Collision Investigation Unit said: "We suspect whoever collided with the girl may not have been aware they had clipped her. We're not treating this as a typical hit-and-run.

"We believe the woman in the image has vital information about the vehicle involved and the circumstances. I would like to stress she is not being sought as a suspect."

The woman is believed to be either Asian or black and appeared to be driving an old shape grey Honda CRV. Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Care home hosts event for visitors

A CARE home in Oldbury welcomed visitors for an afternoon of entertainment and tea during an open day.

Newbury Manor Care Home hosted the event to mark National Care Home Open Day. Dozens of relatives of the residents came to the event at the home, in Newbury Lane, on Friday. Staff laid on a range of activities including a painting by numbers workshop and competition.

Spokesperson Amrit Sumal said: "Newbury Manor prides itself on activities suited to individual residents. There was a real party atmosphere."

Strangers warning after approaches

TWO youngsters were approached by a driver in the same Walsall street on separate occasions, police have said. An 11-year-old boy was walking along Lowlands Avenue, Streetly on his way home when a car pulled up and the driver spoke to him on June 17.

A similar occurrence was reported on Monday when a 10-year-old girl was spoken to by a man in a white car on the same street. Officers have liaised with schools to warn children against speaking to strangers.

Road set to be shut

A ROAD closure will be in operation during rail track maintenance work on Sunday. It takes place at the level crossing in Noose Lane, Willenhall, from midnight until 4.45pm. Signed diversion routes will be in operation for affected traffic including Willenhall Road and Wednesfield Road.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Bringing ID cards in through back door

AS night follows day, when the DVLA suddenly announced it was going to scrap paper driving licences, it was inevitable the computers were going to crash. Our government agencies don't lead the world in many areas, but when it comes to developing duff computer systems, they truly are in a league of their own.

But there is another, slightly disturbing aspect.

To get a security code which will enable, say, hire car companies to check your driving licence, you need to enter not just your driving licence number, but your National Insurance number as well.

Just when did this data become the property of the DVLA?

For the past 25 years or so governments of all colours have been slavering at the idea of introducing some form of ID card. But the plans have always been stymied by public resistance to anything so authoritarian.

Now, anyone who drives a car must apply for a photo card, which has to be updated every 10 years, and that for some unexplained reason is tied to your National Insurance file.

Don't be surprised if, some time during the next 10 years, the powers-that-be introduce something called a 'smart licence', perhaps on a voluntary basis to begin with.

It will no doubt contain a microchip, which will progressively be updated in the years that follow, and before you know it, the ID card has come in by the back door. Smart ID cards, of course.

■■■

GOING in for what is fashionably known as 'rebranding', Wolverhampton City Council has decided it no longer wants to be known as Wolverhampton City Council, but the City of Wolverhampton. That should improve public services no end.

The council says it won't cost the taxpayer a penny. But aside from the fact I can no longer hear the word 'branding' without thinking of the awful driving instructor in the Vistaprint ads, why does any council need to worry about that sort of thing? It's not as if people can take their custom elsewhere, and defect to a council with a more forward-thinking, go-ahead logo. Whatever the emblem, we are stuck with the council we have got.

What is really wrong, though, is the way that the council has commandeered the identity of the city itself. Wolverhampton council is not the same as the City of Wolverhampton. The city can trace its roots back 1,030 years, to the days of Lady Wulfruna, and is viewed with great pride and affection by most of its inhabitants.

Wolverhampton council, in its present form, dates back to 1974, and is a public sector body responsible for maintaining the street lights and emptying the bins. Not the same at all.

Vulnerable runaways are targeted while living on the streets

Serious issues – police and crime commissioner David Jamieson

Cultural change – Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes

Shocking scale of grooming revealed

PETE MADELEY looks at how child sexual exploitation is being addressed in the light of the latest police reports

THE shocking scale of trafficking and grooming gangs across the West Midlands has been revealed in a series of police reports.

Official documents dating back to 2009 show West Midlands Police was not fully aware of the extent of the region's high level of vulnerable youngsters and how to deal with the problem.

One report says that although the majority of suspects were from an Asian background, police were concerned about the dangers of racial stereotyping when dealing with incidents of abuse. Another details the lack of trust between police and social workers. Reports also show how children living at home were targeted with more frequency than those in care.

Escalating

It has also emerged that the force's failure to cope with the rising problem was so acute, the identities of many of those engaged in the abuse was either not known or outdated.

Police difficulties in dealing with the widespread and escalating scale of the abuse has not been made public until now.

In Sandwell in 2010, two vulnerable young women were noted as being 'at high risk' of sexual exploitation. Police believe they were being groomed – or were already being sexually exploited – at the time of the report.

Two other young women were identified as being at high risk in Dudley, along with six girls in Walsall during the same period.

Officers in Wolverhampton, where two groups of young women had been identified, said alcohol, drugs and acts of physical violence were 'key leverages' used by offenders to groom victims into prostitution. The reports also reveal the largest proportion of victims, at 44 per cent, did not reside in children's homes and lived with their parents or other family members. "The force has very limited insight into the threat, and the intelligence profile related to children who are not in care is non-existent," a document said.

Files show police were not fully aware of the extent of the problem

"The current situation poses significant challenges for West Midlands Police in protecting children." Victims were also said to frequently abscond from their family homes, leading to calls for the force to improve the way it deals with such situations. The most common offenders were said to be Pakistani males aged between 16 and 26, and the majority of the victims were white.

But the report showed senior officers had warned of the dangers of racial stereotyping amid claims of a 'widespread problem of British Pakistani men exploiting under-age white girls'. Police said 'convenience and accessibility' may be the prime drivers for those looking for victims, rather than race.

But another report, entitled Internal Human Trafficking For Sexual Exploitation Within the West Midlands, revealed that of 139 female victims, 78 per cent were white. A 'significant proportion' of the suspects were said to be of Muslim background.

The report also raised concerns about 'inadequate identification and management of threat to life issue facing victims'.

The oldest document dates from October 2009 and highlights a lack of trust between police and social workers said to be prevalent at the time. "For a number of years children in care, or residing in children's homes have repeatedly run away," it states. "Unfortunately they are often perceived to be streetwise and police officers consider them to be a nuisance and permanent drain on resources.

"Children's services, home managers and social workers are frustrated by what they perceive to be a lack of interest and action from police officers. Officers are equally frustrated by their perception the workers are not protecting the children and let them run away."

The report adds children in care who regularly go missing 'receive very little police attention', despite police intelligence showing young girls were being groomed by older men who were often involved in drug trafficking and other criminality."The safe and well check is mostly carried out by uniformed response officers and is often in an atmosphere of conflict, the girl not wanting to speak and the officer under pressure to move onto next incident. There is a need for a more formalised corporate approach."

In response, West Midlands Police says the force has undergone 'a significant cultural change' in how it investigates and tackles child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Assistant Chief Constable Carl Foulkes said: "These reports, spanning six years, give a real insight into the journey we have undertaken along with our partners into investigating and tackling child sexual exploitation. It is now very clear that the responsibility of tackling CSE lies with every police officer, staff member, PCSO and special constable.

"The force has carried out extensive work to train officers across the force in how to identify and deal with CSE so we can gain as much intelligence as possible and thereby improving the outcomes for victims.

"We continue to take great steps and as a result of our efforts and without doubt the coverage within local and national media, we are seeing more victims coming forward, knowing we will take their allegations seriously and treat them sensitively and respectfully. Tackling child sexual exploitation is at the heart of everything we do, working closely with our local authorities across the area and the respective Children's Safeguarding Boards."

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said 'serious issues' remained that police and partner agencies were working on together to tackle.

"I believe that a more consistent approach of joint working would help," he said. "We need a concerted effort and a joined-up approach to tackle child sexual exploitation in the West Midlands."

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Beggars are intimidating public

I HAVE noticed of late that once again there is an increase in begging on the streets of Bearwood. This appears to have gone unnoticed by the local councillors.

Sandwell cancelled the neighbourhood forums without any satisfactory explanation. We can only assume that this was because they did not want to face too many questions from the electorate.

On June 20 I understand that there were on Bearwood Road near the junction with Anderson Road people stopping shoppers and asking for money to help children in other countries, this has also happened before. These people can be intimidating to the elderly and as in this case, a single lady.

Obviously with the presence of a uniformed police officer, this would probably not happen, but to station one there all day every day would not be practical. Sandwell Councillors, you are elected to see that each ward gets treated fairly and not just worry about the appearance of West Bromwich town centre. Stop hiding and face the public.

E J JOHNSON
Warley

Silly move to put block on nurses

SO our panel of experts has decided that nurses from outside the EU can only work in this country for six years, unless they earn over £30,000 annually.

To do this, these nurses would have to have regular employment plus regular work on an agency basis in order to qualify. If they were to do this, I am certain that the standard of care offered by these dedicated people would drop due to being overtired.

I wonder how many of these experts have been into hospital as in-patients in recent times? Renal dialysis appears to be almost completely staffed by non-Europeans. Are we then to send these people back from whence they came? Who is going to pick up the pieces?

Perhaps these experts should retrain and carry out the duties of those whom they want rid of, or would that mean that their standards of living would drop substantially and they would have to get their hands dirty.

L HALES
Cradley Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Three days are not enough for our say

WHERE is the engagement and involvement with us in our communities with the councillors, Sandwell Council and other partners?

Neighbourhood forums were established in 2006 and due to the hard work put in by officers from Sandwell Council and community representatives they proved to be very well attended with lively debate and discussion.

These were an opportunity to raise issues, concerns and make all aware of any proposals locally or through the borough. I cannot stress enough how much work Sandwell officers put into these events to encourage attendance.

Typically the events were held four times a year in each of the wards. However in an announcement that still baffles me to this day, the then Deputy Leader Cllr Mahmood Hussain, now on administrative suspension, on June 24 stated that "we want to explain our case and listen to what people say before we take any firm decision".

To enable them to listen to us they provided a link to an online survey which had a closing date for comments as June 27. Just three days to make your voice heard that's if you were aware of it in the first place or had access to the internet. How can this be considered a fair and proportional consultation exercise?

STEVE LATHAM – UKIP
Sandwell

Agreement over claims

I WAS quite interested in Michael Forrester's letter; I think it is high time Government backing was afforded to the sufferers of mesothelioma, a terrible disease, and other industrial claims.

Insurance details of firms long since closed are very hard to procure, many employers wilfully change company titles, move premises, deny the plaintiff ever worked there, and hide insurance documentation.

There are, sadly, also dodgy legal companies, stringing along plaintiffs with all sorts of false rhetoric, along as the plaintiff takes out insurance, and the legal firm pockets the cheque. It is refreshing to hear from people like Michael Forrester of Riley Hayes & Co, as my experience of solicitors and their ilk is their lies and debacle.

M SAXON
Tipton

Writer waxes lyrical at shop

HALF a leg £14 quid, or a full leg £20; I'm not in a butchers shop, this is a beauty salon's price list.

Now I'm not an expert on waxing, but I must admit I find it fascinating to how you have half a leg waxed and don't legs come in pairs, after all if you are a bit skint would you have only one leg done, or perhaps two halves?

If that's the top half or the bottom half I'm not sure but perhaps you can alternate according to seasons, although I did note that eyebrows do come in pairs thank goodness.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

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£5.2m is spent on agency staff by schools in borough

SCHOOLS in Sandwell have spent more than £5.2 million employing agency staff during 12 months, new figures reveal. Casual workers are brought in to cover sickness absences and maternity leave to ensure pupils do not miss lessons.

Money can also been spent on bringing in additional teaching specialists and coaches for some subjects or year groups. While agency staff are commonly also drafted in to help with exams, such as supervisors, and recruitment.

The total bill for the 2014/15 financial year was £5,212,275,which was up from £4,827,259 in 2013/14. The figures, revealed under the Freedom of Information Act, do not include academies, which run independently, but relate to primary schools, secondary schools and special schools.

Sandwell Council does not get involved in school finances as each school controls their own budget and decides on any additional staff they need to bring in. A total of £3,957,236 was spent by the borough's primaries, £771,550 by secondaries and £483,489 by special schools.

Encourage

The amount spent per school between April 2014 – March 2015 ranged from £338 to £331,179.64. Around 80 primary, five secondary, and four special schools paid to use agency staff during the 12 months. The borough's education chief Councillor Simon Hackett said: "We do encourage schools to appoint full-time, permanent staff members where possible."

Among the biggest spending primary schools were Uplands Manor in Smethwick where the bill was £240,087.81 and Galton Valley, also in Smethwick, which paid out £157,760.86, Yew Tree spent £141,790.70 and Guns Village in West Bromwich spent £123,941.74.

Wright way for fashion at Gas Hall

TV presenter Mark Wright has been announced as the host for this year's Style Birmingham Live

The city's fashion and shopping event will take place on September 26 and 27. It will see Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's Gas Hall transformed to showcase the latest autumn/winter styles and collections from a host of high street retailers and shopping centres.

The event will feature eight catwalk shows across the weekend,all hosted by Wright. The presenter said: "I'm a big fan of Birmingham and the people have always been so welcoming."

Steve Hewlett, from organisers Retail Birmingham said: "We're very excited to be bringing Style Birmingham Live back with Mark Wright as host plus with an exciting mix of retailers and stunning catwalk models, this year's event will be the best yet."

Tickets are available from www.theticketfactory.com

Plaque marks Indian Army exploits

Oldbury Royal British legion unveil a plaque to commemorate Sikh and other Asian soldiers' efforts. From left, Harcharan Singh Bahra, Ranvir Singh Virdi, Dal Singh Dhesi, S Sgt Sachin Handa, Nigel Avery, David Williams and Nobby Clarke

A PLAQUE honouring the dedication and achievements of the Indian Army during both world wars has been unveiled in the Black Country.

Six Victoria Cross recipients are included in the commemorative display which is now hanging proudly on the wall at the Royal British Legion club in Oldbury.

Members had been asked by the Sikh Community and Youth Service (SCYS), based in Handsworth, Birmingham, to consider installing a memorial plaque. Branch chairman and Army Cadet Force instructor Sgt Adrian Dunn said they were only too happy to oblige.

Indian soldiers fought alongside British troops in both the First and Second World Wars but their efforts have only been fully recognised in recent years. Eighteen soldiers received The Victoria Cross – the highest award for gallantry – for action in the First World War and 30 following the Second World War. Of those, six were chosen to be featured with photographs on the plaque unveiled at the club in Windsor Road.

They include Captain Ishar Singh, who was the first Sikh to be awarded the honour for his 'most conspicuous bravery and devotion' following the First World War and Parkash Singh, whose VC recognising his 'selfless devotion' is displayed at the Imperial War Museum. The club had received support from B J T Fencing & Sheds to fund the plaque.

Libraries to swing away the summer

WITH free live Jazz and Blues music and opportunities to showcase local talent, Sandwell's libraries are looking to create a cool and relaxed vibe this summer.

Local and international musicians will be performing at a series of shows as part of the 31st Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival, Sandwell Libraries' charity talent contests and Sandwell Arts Festival.

The renowned Birmingham International Jazz and Blues Festival which runs from Friday 3 July until Sunday 12 July is organised by Big Bear Records and is bringing a fantastic array of performers to events in Birmingham and the Black Country.

To complement the festival, Sandwell Libraries are organising a series of other Jazz and Blues-themed events during the festival and beyond. These include the All That Jazz talent contest for adults and the WOW Factor talent contest for young people in aid of BUDS (Better Understanding of Dementia in Sandwell), the library service's nominated charity for 2015.

Age categories for the WOW Factor are 7-12 years and 13-19 years.

The Grand Final of the All That Jazz heats takes place at Central Library, West Bromwich on Saturday July 11 at 7.30pm with the WOW Factor Grand Final on Saturday October 3.

Sandwell Arts Festival gets under way on Wednesday August 12 and is celebrating the life of West Bromwich-born internationally acclaimed actress Madeleine Carroll.

Continuing until Sunday 23 August, there'll be a fun-packed programme of activities including making large street puppets, live music, film screenings, arts clubs and more in libraries and other venues.

All events are free and there's something for all ages.

For more information please contact: 0121 569 4904 or visit the Sandwell Libraries website.

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JLR's icing on the cake for Defender milestone

IT'S the Great British Brake Off! Star baker Lara Clarke really rose to the challenge to make this remarkable half-sized Land Rover cake to celebrate the two millionth Defender coming off the production line.

Weighing an incredible 600kg (1322lbs), and using 50kg (110lbs) of butter cream, 50kg of fondant icing, and 20kg (44lbs) of chocolate glazing, the creation is Lara's biggest to date.

Lara Clarke

When staff gathered at Jaguar Land Rovers' Solihull plant, to celebrate the milestone of the iconic 4x4, they were greeted by the giant vanilla sponge.

It took Miss Clarke, aged 29, 150 hours to make and fed 2,000 employees at the factory.

Miss Clarke, who lives in Brownhills, has previously hit the headlines for her life-size Jennifer Lawrence and Johnny Depp cakes.

She said: "I had a phone call from JLR in Solihull saying they had a big event to celebrate the two millionth Defender that they had people from all over world coming to celebrate.

"They asked if I could make a cake.

"Initially they thought it would be small but when I suggested I could make one half the size, they were stunned.

"A real Land Rover Defender measures about four metres long and this one is two metres.

A view of the huge cake made by Lara Clarke to mark the Land Rover milestone

"The only reason I did not offer to make a full-size one was because my house would not be big enough."

There were 50 hours of planning and 50 hours of making the frame to support the cake before she even started baking.

Also, all the work had to be completed within a few days because it all had to be edible.

Adored

She said: "This is the biggest cake I have ever done. The cakes I have entered into the competitions are ones that are not going to be eaten so I can relax. This one I adored doing."

Miss Clarke still makes cakes as a hobby in her spare time from her day job as a website chat assistant. She also revealed how fraught she was when transporting the cake from Walsall to Solihull.

She said: "I was so worried. We had it in the back of a van and but a sign on the back door that told other drivers we were travelling at 20mph because we were carrying a giant Land Rover cake.

"When we got there everything was fine but everyone was like 'wow'.

"But then it was a case of how are we going to get it out? We had to use a JLR forklift truck and they stored it in a cool area alongside cars."

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Big turnout for match in memory of marine

Players line up for the Bearwood FC Legends side at the memorial match for Oliver Mee who died in June 2007

Oliver Mee, in uniform

MORE than 100 people attended a memorial match organised remember a keen footballer and marine commando who was murdered.

People gathered for the annual game to pay their respects to Oliver Mee, from Bearwood, who died in June 2007, aged just 24.

Mr Mee, known as Oli, had founded and established Bearwood FC with his friends.

The anniversary match, now in its eighth year, is organised by his best friend Chris Delaney who is captain and manager. And many of those who played with him took the time out to travel back to Bearwood from across the country to take part. The Bearwood FC legends team took on the current crop of players – with the former stars running out 5-3 winners for the first time.

Family and friends thanked both teams for turning out on Saturday June 20, despite the rain, to take part in the match at Hadley Stadium, in Smethwick.

Mr Mee, along with friends Chris and Matt Beese used to play for Bearwood Sports FC youth teams.

They then decided to link up with Carl and Mark Wheatley, Ben Jukes, Ian Roberts, Tony Pickering, Liam Byrne and Andy Liperis to form Bearwood FC in the Warley and District Sunday League in 2000.

He remains the club's all-time top goal-scorer with 120 goals in his seven seasons.Mr Mee passed out a marine commando as part of the the Gloucester Regiment in April 2007 - just weeks before he was murdered.

Adam Buckley, of Ethel Street, Smethwick, was jailed for 19 years after being convicted of murder at Wolverhampton Crown

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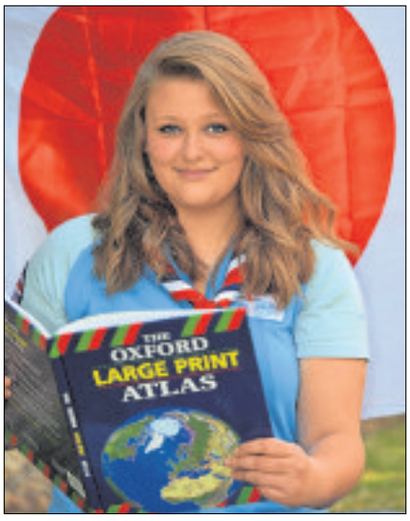

Ruth Collett, aged 16, from West Bromwich has been picked to represent West Mercia at the jamboree in Japan

A WEST Bromwich girl guide is getting ready to jet off to Japan and expand her army of skills.

Talented girl guide Ruth Collett, aged 16, will represent West Mercia in the 23rd World Scout Jamboree, alongside thousands of other youngsters regarded as some of the best young scouts in the world.

Ruth, who is a member of the First West Bromwich Rangers, has had a long time to prepare for her trip, having earned her chance to represent West Mercia in a competition held last summer. She said: "I can't wait to go now, I am very excited. I am going to learn a lot about the culture of Japan while I am out there."

Ruth will fly out to Japan on July 25, spending two-and-a-half weeks away from home. The skills she has already picked up through her time in the girl guides means the young Phoenix Collegiate School pupil has no hesitation about venturing out into the big wide world.

She said: "I have learned a lot from being with the girl guides and I can't wait to learn more about what it means to be one while I am in Japan."

Scheme to help jobs choice is facing axe

A PROGRAMME that helps disadvantaged youngsters across the West Midlands step onto the career ladder may have to be axed due to a lack of funding.

The City Builders scheme run by Made, the regional built environment charity, has given more than 150 students in the region access to the construction industry.

The Birmingham-based academy has hosted students from schools including Walsall Academy, Cardinal Griffin in Cannock, Dormston School in Dudley and Pool Hayes in Willenhall. The project, which runs a number of different courses, has been operating successfully for three years and has already started receiving inquiries from schools looking to send students this year.

The first and the one under most severe threat is the popular week-long Academy, which costs around £6,000 to run and sees students undertake a design challenge and work with professionals.

Made said it had exhausted all funding options and may be forced to cancel the project indefinitely.

By Lisa O'Brien

Sally Robertshaw, community programmes manager, said: "We are enormously grateful to the charities and trusts that have supported us so far.

"We are hoping that all regional built environment professions, from architects to quantity surveyors will consider whether their corporate social responsibility strategies have room to support the project in some way."

Students undertake a design challenge, hear from and work with professionals, visit studios and development sites and learn the basic principles of good design.

Companies wishing to assist the City Builders scheme should call 0121 348 7980.

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Crowds enjoy feast with street banquet

Event organisers Chloe Dowding and Sara Bremner

Roisin Eastwood, aged 25 and brother Patrick,

Twins Isla and Oliva Green, five, with Millie Poultney,

Crowds enjoy Wolverhampton's first Street Banquet

HUNDREDS of people turned out for Wolverhampton's first ever street banquet.

A wide variety of street food and drink was on offer at the day-long event at Wolverhampton Rugby Club last Saturday.

It was the first time an event of this kind has been held in the city.

Organisers Street Banquet said it wanted to deliver an urban village atmosphere for families to enjoy and organisers say they are currently in talks with Wolverhampton Rugby Club to hold another event in a matter of weeks.

Traders included many from the Midlands including Fancy Fries, Caribbean Islands, Gangsta Wraps, Pop-up Pancakes and La Grand Viande, which is based in Tettenhall.

Initally due to take place on the grounds of Chris Jewkes Fitness in Danescourt Road, the event was briefly axed following fears over parking, litter and noise and its close proximity to Danescourt Cemetery. Organisers switched the event to the rugby club on Castlecroft Road.

Chloe Dowding, one of the organisers, said the event had been a huge success.

"We are in talks at holding another event in a few weeks which we hope we can finalise and announce soon," she said.

Elvis tribute has costumes stolen

AN Elvis impersonator was all shook up when his van with £10,000 worth of costumes and wigs inside was stolen from outside his Black Country home.

Andy James was forced to cancel a charity gig in Wolverhampton last Friday night at the last minute but has vowed to honour a gig in Brierley Hill this weekend.

The costumes were all tailor made for him in Las Vegas by the firm who made the real Elvis Presley's stage jumpsuits, each one costing him £2,500.

The opportunist thieves also made off with all Andy's lighting and sound equipment, though they left a £1,000 guitar by the side of the road.

Semi-retired businessman Andy is kicking himself over the loss of his performance gear as he left the keys in the van's ignition so the insurance company will not pay out. The total loss comes to £35,000.

The theft, on Monday, June 22, happened as he and sound engineer Chris Hayward were packing the white Citroen Relay to go to London where 50-year-old Andy was due to play at a 1,000-seater venue that night.

"I was devastated," he said. "Around 70 to 80 per cent of my work is for charity, I certainly don't do it for the money. The first thing I had to do was make the call to the London gig and obviously they didn't take it too well.

"I was able to give the police the van details when I got home but by then the thieves were well away."

The Elvis fanatic, from Rosehill, Willenhall, found one of his guitars in the car park outside his flat.

Andy has been a fan of The King since 1977 and began to perform his tribute act 15 years ago.

Among the stolen items were four new high-collared jump suits he had tailor made in Las Vegas. "I'd not even had a chance to try them on," he said. Also gone was £10,000 of gig lighting.

Andy refuses to be beaten by his misfortune and has bought new stage equipment and ordered new wigs from America over the internet.

He is hoping to keep his promise to perform at the re-opening of The Raven pub in Wood Lane, Brierley Hill this weekend. "With a bit of luck I should have everything in time," he said.

The tribute act performs as his hero 'The King'

Andy James – devastated by theft

Andy James as Elvis Presley

Lee and Dean have the Lion's share for 30th

FORMER football stars Dean Saunders and Lee Hendrie were the special guests as a team celebrated its 30th anniversary.

More than 700 people associated with Sedgley White Lions attended a special ceremony at The Venue in Dudley to mark the occasion. The club was formed at the White Lion pub in Bilston Street, Sedgley, in 1985 and have gone on the become a successful side at various age groups.

The first team most recently played in the Dudley and Cradley league but will move to the Wolverhampton Sunday League from next season. The Lions currently has teams all the way down to Under 9s, but will be extending that further with an Under 8s team set to launch.

Former Wolves manager and Aston Villa forward Saunders and ex-Villa star Hendrie accepted the invitation to hand out awards to the Lions' stars of the season.

Young Sedgley White Lions players took the opportunity to get autographs and selfies with the stars.

Saunders' had a brief and unsuccessful spell as Wolves boss in 2013 but is respected in the game for his goalscoring exploits at Aston Villa and Liverpool among other clubs.

Hendrie promised much when he burst onto the scene at Villa during the 1990s and made one appearance for England.

John Timmins, from the club, said he was delighted to get the former footballers on board. The evening also saw more than £2,000 raised for charity through an auction in which a signed Manchester United shirt and boxing gloves that belonged to Black Country boxer Pat Cowdell sold off.

At the front ex-players Lee Hendrie and Dean Saunders with the youngest captain, Luke Hale, nine

Countdown ticks on for clock return

A LANDMARK clock has moved a step closer to returning to its original home in the Black Country after an absence of more than 40 years.

The 20ft structure is set to be put back in Bearwood after decades spent in Birmingham city centre.

Councillors in Sandwell have been advised to approve the move, with planning officers saying the proposal would 'result in an attractive piece of heritage returning to Sandwell where it can be safely enjoyed by residents'.

A final decision was due to be made this week, but council chiefs have already publicly backed the plan.

Its return has been hit by delays, with the clock to undergo repairs in Derby before the switch but it is hoped it will be positioned at the junction of Bearwood Road and Adkins Lane before the end of the summer.

Residents of a certain generation would remember the clock being outside the Kings Head pub in Bearwood Road, where it stood between 1900 and 1971.

It was moved to make way for road widening but has now been gifted back to Sandwell by council bosses in Birmingham.

Weekly car boot sales set to carry on at site

WEEKLY car boot sales attracting 200 stallholders are set to continue in Oldbury for another 12 months after a successful trial period.

Sandwell Council is poised to allow its car park in Dudley Road to continue to be used for a car boot sale and market each Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday. Traders were granted a year long licence to use the 561-space site last year to see if there was an appetite for the market in the area.

By Richard Guttridge

It has proved to be a success with people flocking to get their hands on a bargain at weekends.

Bosses came up with the idea in an attempt to boost footfall near the town centre and make use of a car park which is used by council workers during the week.

A total of 203 traders will be allowed to set up stalls if the extension is given formal approval.

The licence would again be extended by 12 months, with council bosses keen to see whether the level of interest from the public will continue, giving them the option to end the project next year if they wish.

A Sandwell Council planning report, in which officers recommended the extension of the licence for approval, said: "If managed successfully the market will provide a resource which will benefit both Sandwell Council and the surrounding community."

The report said extending the licence by 12 months would be the 'most suitable course of action'. "This will enable a consideration of how successful the running of the market has been at the expiration of the temporary period," it said.

Oldbury councillor Susan Downing said the proposed move was positive news for the town.

She said: "I have not heard any complaints about it from residents so that can only mean it has been a success.

"If the council are moving to promote it and keep it here it can only be a benefit for Oldbury. It's another facility for the town and the surrounding area."

The proposal for the scheme was originally put forward by the council's urban regeneration team last year, when it was claimed that there was a growing demand for the introduction of such a service in the town.

The sale has been open to customers between 8am and 12.30pm, with traders allowed to come onto the site slightly earlier to set up their stalls.

Priest set for city gig in the winter

BIRMINGHAM heavy rock group Judas Priest are set to visit Wolverhampton later this year.

The band, who formed back in the early 70s and played their first gig in Walsall, will perform at the Civic Hall on November 26.

In 2010, the group won a Grammy award for 'Best Metal Performance' then went out on the road for the successful Epitaph Tour, which lasted two years.

They are now gearing up to release Redeemer of Souls, their 17th studio album, which will be available to buy in the UK from July 14.

The record has already been released in the US, where it charted at number six in the Billboard Top 100, marking the band's first ever top 10 album in the country.

Tickets priced £42.35 including booking fee are available online at wolvescivic.co.uk or through the Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000.

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Bowie's Black Country Rock revival

Tony Visconti & Woody Woodmansey's Holy Holy, 02 Academy, Birmingham

TONY Visconti produced some of David Bowie's best known albums, and as one of the Spiders from Mars, Woody Woodmansey drummed on them. Though the main man remains in semi-retirement in New York, they have earned the right to perform these songs.

The Man Who Sold The World is an odd choice to perform in full, as one of the Thin White Duke's lesser known albums. Its title song was covered so superbly by Nirvana that many think it's a Kurt Cobain original.

Given the hard rock treatment by a seasoned band and with Heaven 17's capable Glenn Gregory providing the lion's share of the vocals, it was interesting to hear Bowie's prog rock opus from 1970. There were storming versions of All the Madmen, Black Country Rock and After All, the latter with suitably theatrical vocals from guest Marc Almond. Visconti played bass and Yorkshire rocker Woodmansey remains a formidable drummer.

Things took off in the second half with favourites from Hunky Dory, Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane, Gregory excelling with Life On Mars and duetting with Almond for All The Young Dudes and Oh You Pretty Things.

Leon Burakowski

Mousetrap has secret of success

The Mousetrap, Wolverhampton Grand

FOR more than six decades now, Agatha Christie's play The Mousetrap has been at fixture in London's West End, while this national tour delights audiences further afield.

The longevity of The Mousetrap may fool first timers into thinking that it is her best work; in fact, it is not. That said, it is a light-hearted, quirky piece of theatre with an essentially English vibe, an easy-to-follow storyline and likeable characters. The perfect recipe for an entertaining evening.

The plot centres around a group of unusual characters who are brought together in a small country guest house. Then, exactly as you would expect, when a murder happens everyone begins to suspect everyone else.

The twists and turns in Act Two ensure that the reveal is completely unpredictable. All that is left to say is please don't spoil it. Half the fun of seeing The Mousetrap is keeping the secret. It runs until Saturday.

Alison Norton

REVIEWS

Stafford Festival Shakespeare performing Much Ado About Nothing at Stafford Castle

Much Ado is worthy of Stafford Festival's 25 year anniversary

Much Ado About Nothing, Stafford Castle

IN some corner of a Stafford field, that is forever England, in the shadow of the castle, we were treated to a sparkling performance of Much Ado About Nothing.

Set just after the end of the First World War, the cast, admirably led by Phylip Harris – who would later be tickling our ribs as the incompetent policeman Dogberry – got the audience into the mood with a sing-along. It certainly set the tone for what would be a very musical production with excellent voices and instrumentation throughout, to intersperse the comedic and highly dramatic moments of Much Ado.

Union Flag bunting surrounds the stage, the facade of a town square of the period is the backdrop, as our brave boys are welcomed home from the trenches. Quickly their thoughts turn from war to the pursuit of the fairer sex as Benedick and Beatrice engage in their own war of wits. The leads, a couple of 25 years themselves, Philip Bretherton as Benedick and Sherry Baines as Beatrice, acquitted themselves well as the sparring partners who come to realise they have feelings for one another.

The Stafford Festival Shakespeare production continues until July 11.

Graeme Andrew

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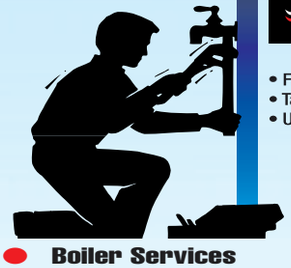

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Compromise hope after pub opening hours bid

A PUB in Wednesbury will be allowed to serve alcohol beyond midnight at weekends – but will have to shut earlier than bosses had wanted.

The Brunswick, in Crankhall Lane, had applied for a change to its licence so that it would be able to keep serving punters until 2am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights – two hours later than previously permitted.

By Richard Guttridge

Management argued the change would bring the pub into line with rival venues in the area but the request prompted complaints from residents living nearby.

Sandwell Council's licensing committee sought to find a compromise by allowing the pub to serve alcohol and play music until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays, and the pub must close at 1.30am.

But it has not allowed any changes to the Brunswick's licence on Thursday nights, when the pub will still only be allowed to serve alcohol until midnight.

Objections were submitted to Sandwell Council before the decision was made last week. Amanda Oakley, aged 41, who lives a few doors down from the Brunswick on Crankhall Lane, said she was worried about the prospect of alcohol-fuelled violence.

She said: "The longer it is open the more people are going to drink and the more trouble we are going to have. We don't want that, I've got kids."

Pam Taylor, 67, said she was also concerned by the proposal. "We sleep with the windows open. If they are going to stay open an extra two hours we don't know what it's going to be like."

Brunswick landlord Steve Dodd said: "We do need longer hours. Every other pub has longer hours than this one. If people know we close earlier than others they do a runner before time. If they are getting thrown out at 12 o'clock they move on. People tend to drift."

Wednesbury councillor Elaine Costigan said she could understand residents' concerns. She said: "We want pubs to do well but we have got to think of the residents as well."

Hub plan for Lidl is given the go ahead

BUDGET supermarket Lidl has been given the go-ahead to continue with its plans to build a major distribution centre in Wednesbury, which will create up to 500 jobs.

Proposals for the 450,000 sq ft centre were submitted to Sandwell Council for approval.

It will be built on land near to Junction 9 of the M6 and create managerial and office-based jobs, in addition to full-time warehouse roles operating on a three-shift basis, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Wednesbury councillor Elaine Costigan has welcomed the development.

She said: "This is fantastic news. These are very welcome and much-needed jobs."

Additional

The planning applications says: "An additional facility is required in the Midlands region to service existing and planned supermarkets."

Bosses from Lidl looked at a number of sites for the development but opted for Wednesbury because it wanted to access a 'sufficiently large employment pool'.

Sandwell Council's recruitment team will be working with Lidl to ensure jobs are secured for residents who hail from the local area.

The huge silos in Wednesbury, which were erected by KTC Edibles

Officers' backing on factory silos set to be moved

PLANS to move two illegal 30ft silos at a factory on the Tipton/Wednesbury border have been backed by council officers.

Sandwell Council asked KTC Edibles to stop work on the structures following complaints they were towering over homes.

The firm has asked to move the silos to another part of the site where they couldn't be seen.

Planning officers at Sandwell Council are recommending the proposals are approved with the condition the work is carried out within a month.

A final decision was due to be made by councillors at a meeting yesterday, saying they are satisfied that the silos will be 'significantly concealed from view'.

Reverse

The proposals follow talks with Sandwell Council to find a solution.

They say the silos, which are at the back of the factory cannot be seen from the front of the site, off Moorcroft Drive.

They believe that moving the silos to the front of the factory would mean the reverse would also be true and the residents would no longer be able to see them.

The application submitted by Jindy Khera said the silos were vital because it needed to replace some of its existing silos and create additional storage space.

Costa bid to bring in 15 jobs

A COSTA Coffee drive-through outlet will open in Wednesbury, resulting in the creation of up to 15 jobs.

It will open on the Gallagher Retail Park in Axletree Way later this month.

The coffee chain will employ between 10 and 15 workers and ward councillor Elaine Costigan has welcomed the news.

"This is more jobs for Wednesbury so I definitely welcome it," she added.

A Costa Coffee spokesman said: "As with all of our new store openings we will do all that we can to integrate ourselves with the local community."

He added that this would incorporate 'getting involved with events; providing the store as a meeting place and helping with fundraising'.

Gallery goes back to 60s

A 'BOSTIN' 60s quiz' night will take place at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery on July 9. Tickets cost just £4 a person and include a fish and chip supper.

They can be pre-booked by calling the museum on 0121 556 0683 or in person. Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Visitors can also find out on the night how they can get involved with a project to develop a new 1960s themed exhibition.

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What's in a name over devolution?

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

JUST when we thought Greater Birmingham was deader than disco, it rears its head all over again.

If the West Midlands cannot even agree on what to call itself, talk of devolution is pointless.

To most people, the argument itself is the most mind numbingly dull and uninspiring of all.

It is, at its most basic, a question of Whitehall relinquishing its iron grip over funding and powers and letting local communities make the decision.

But it matters. It's about how much we get compared with the emerging Northern Powerhouse and the ever-expanding south east.

Once we've settled on a name we can get into all sorts of arguments over what those powers should be, whether or not the looming combined authority will replace or supercede any functions of local councils and lance the ever-present boil of a directly elected metro mayor.

Billing

Council leaders tried to do that with the dull as ditch water 'does-what-it-says-on-the-tin' name of West Midlands Combined Authority.

No-one takes top billing and none of the cities involved – Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry and even, potentially, Lichfield – can claim they are being sidelined over someone else, while the metropolitan boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Solihull and various other districts don't feel hard-done-by either.

Andy Street, chairman of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP

The problem is businesses, who will have seats at the table, don't seem to like it. It was no surprise to hear Andy Street, chairman of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership say that Birmingham should be in the title.

That LEP, by the way, proves that whatever anyone in the Black Country thinks, the title of Greater Birmingham will not go away. But when it comes from businessman Mike Dell, who is leading the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Devolution Group, alarm bells start to ring.

He says: "The name 'Birmingham' is recognised on the world stage, West Midlands is not, and we do not want to be trying to explain where we are. It is important that we put aside parochial perspectives and work together." But people don't like it. Not around here anyway.

For the Greater Brum LEP, business leaders can argue that what's good for the city is good for the districts as many people work in one and live in the other. But that argument doesn't wash in the Black Country.

Mike Dell is absolutely right that people need to work together.

What no-one can really answer is how much, exactly, is in it for each individual area. Nor can they really say what it will eventually turn into or who is going to run it.

They can't because they're still defending their decision to not call it Greater Birmingham.

And until we get past that, the devil will stay hidden amid the real detail no-one's talking about.

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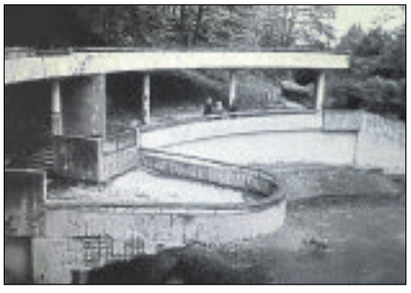
A view of the old-fashioned, black and white movie showing the penguins enclosure

An old photo of the zoo, and more related material

The artist and film lecturer seen with his film showing the iconic zoo entrance

Adam Kossoff with the stuffed owl at the exhibition



Lubetkin and Tecton's bear ravine in all its glory

Film teacher brings magic of zoo to life

A MULTIMEDIA exhibition organised by a Wolverhampton lecturer tells the story of Dudley Zoo and the restoration of its unique animal enclosures.

MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

Renowned artist and writer Adam Kossoff, who also teaches film and video studies at Wolverhampton University, made a 1950s-style movie called Animal Architecture, after spending three days with a camera inside Dudley Zoo.

The film, narrated by Lenny Henry, focuses on the restoration of its unique animal enclosures, which were designed in 1937 by Modernist architect Berthold Lubetkin, while giving a unique insight into the daily routines at the zoo.

It forms the centre of an exhibition which will run at Wolverhampton Art Gallery until September 19. Mr Kossoff said: "The film is inspired by the free cinema movement and I think that style suits the atmosphere of a zoo quite nicely.

"I wanted to focus on the architecture, because Berthold Lubetkin was quite an avant garde designer and his work is amazing.

Onesie

"The film also looks at the relationship between humans and animals and emphasises the zoo's atmosphere and its importance as a leisure and cultural attraction for local people.

"It feels like an old film because of the way it is shot and the old-fashioned architecture but the people are wearing modern clothes.

"On one of the days I was shooting, everyone who came to the zoo was wearing a onesie."

"The loss of history that occurs when we knock buildings down fascinates me and I think it is a great subject for a film maker to focus on.

"The restoration of Lubetkin's work means history is being preserved in this instance.

"It was great to get Lenny Henry to narrate the film too, it is nice that he has a bit of an accent and of course he knows all about Dudley and the zoo."

As well as the film, people can look at original design plans for Dudley Zoo, alongside artistic photographs of its enclosures and a fascinating 3D sculptural piece based around a revolving stuffed owl, which has been christened Minerva, in honour of a famous quote from philosopher Georg Wilhelm Fredrick Hegel.

Some of the documents gathered which are part of the exhibition

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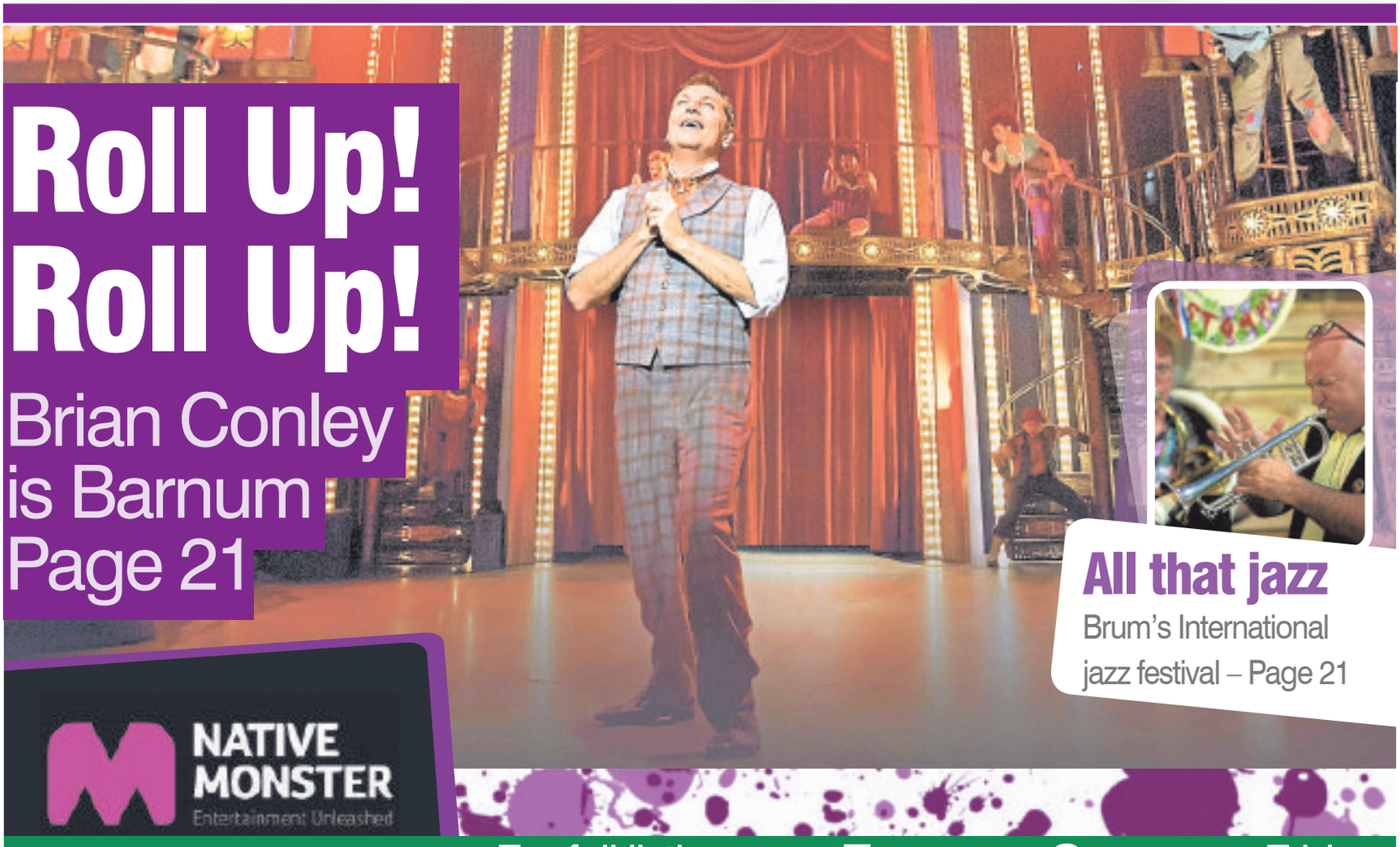

Roll Up! Roll Up!

Brian Conley is Barnum

Page 21

All that jazz

Brum's International jazz festival – Page 21

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For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Visit **www.camperjam.com**

Moscow State Circus

Wed - July 12
Merry Hill Centre, Dudley
The Moscow State Circus returns to the UK with its latest and greatest production to date. Zhelaniy is based on the Russian folklore story of the flower with seven colours.
Visit **www.moscowstatecircus.com**

Jimmy Carr

Saturday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
By popular demand Carr has added this extra date to his current tour, Funny Business. Come for the witty and incisive musings on the human condition; stay for the cheap gags.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Mary J Blige

Friday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
Global superstar and undisputed queen of contemporary soul Mary J Blige follows her show-stealing performance alongside Sam Smith at the 2015 Grammy Awards with a new tour.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

ROCK & POP

Mary J. Blige
Fri at 7.30pm,
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Barclaycard Arena,
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Call 0121 780 4141

Fleetwood Mac
Sat at 8pm, £56.70 - £135.70
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Wall Of Floyd
Fri at 7.30pm,
£16.75 - £18.75
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

The Billy Fury Years
Fri at 7.30pm, £18
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Paul Carrack – Rain or Shine
Fri at 7.30pm, £25 - £27.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Respublica
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Biohazard
Wed at 7pm, £16.50
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552106

COUNTRY & FOLK

Nothing to Prove
Fri at 8.30pm, £4 - £5
Ashwood Marina Ltd,
Kingswinford, DY6 0AQ.
Call 01384 27996

Andrew & Lynn
Fri at 8.30pm, £6
The Five Ways Inn,
Cannock, WS12 3HU.
Call 01543 279022

Common Folk Double Bill
Thu at 8.30pm,
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
Call 01922 682018

Country Music Nights
Sun at 8.15pm, £2
Swan With Two Necks,
Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

Simon & Garfunkel
Thu at 7.30pm, £1 - £12.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Irish Session
Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm,
Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,
Pattingham,
Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 700207

Brewood Acoustic Club
Thu at 8pm,
Brewood Cricket Club, Four
Ashes Road, Brewood,
ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Bette Midler
Thu at 8pm, £56.95 - £110.70
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Graduates Summer Concert
Sun at 4pm - 5pm,
Selly Manor Museum,
Bournville, Birmingham,
B30 1UB.
Call 0121 472 0199

Royal Opera: Guillaume Tell
Sun at 2.45pm, £10 - £18
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Redditch Orchestra
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Harp & A Monkey – The Great War: New Songs and Stories
Mon at 8pm
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT
Call 01785 619080

Carducci Quartet
Sat at 10.30am
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 345 0600

2015 Brant International Piano Competition, Birmingham: The Final
Sat at 3pm
Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 345 0600

Wagner's The Flying Dutchman
Sun at 4pm
£9.50 - £50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 345 0600

JAZZ & BLUES

The Beat Brothers
Sat, 7/30pm
The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls
Square, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Karyn White
Tue, 7.30pm
The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls
Square, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys
Thu, 7.30pm
The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls
Square, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

The Pasadena Roof Orchestra
Wed at 7.30pm,
£18.25 - £19.75
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Lee Jones Quintent
Fri at 5pm, Free
Symphony Hall Cafe Bar
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 345 0600

Ella Fitzgerald Songbook
Fri, 7.30pm
£12.50 - £44
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 345 0600

MFY National Festival
Tue - July 10
Venues and times vary
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 345 0600

THEATRE

Barnum
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, £19.50 - £48.50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Meet the Gruffalo!
Sat at 10.30am, £3
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Oklahoma!
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
£18 - £40
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Dead Simple
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
£11.25 - £38.90
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Cyrano de Bergerac
Sat at 7.45pm, Sun at 2.45pm,
Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.45pm,
£6 - £12.50
The Crescent Theatre,
Sheepcote Street, Birmingham,
B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

The Mousetrap
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
£11.50 - £29.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Vocalize Variety Show
Sat at 2pm, 7pm,
£10.75 - £12.75
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Honk! The Musical
Wed, Thu at 2.30pm/7.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT
Call 01785 619080

NT Live: Man & Superman
Sun at 2pm, £11 - £19.50
mac, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

NT Live: Man & Superman
Fri at 7pm
Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT
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DANCE

Worcestershire Schools' Dance
Tue at 4pm, £5.75 - £10.75
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

COMEDY

Jimmy Carr
Sat at 8pm, £25
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 345 0600

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy
Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50
The Glee Club, 70 Hurst Street,
Birmingham,
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Call 0871 472 0400

CRAFT & WORKSHOPS

Children's Weekend Activities
Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm,
£2 - £4.50
The Museum Of Carpet,
Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ.
Call 01562 69028

You Crafty Thing!
Thu at 10.30am - 12.30pm,
£3
The Museum Of Cannock Chase,
Hednesford,
Cannock, WS12 1TD.
Call 01543 877666

Nifty Knitters
Fri at 11am - 1pm, £1
The Oak House Museum, Oak
Road, West Bromwich,
B70 8HJ.
Call 0121 553 0759

OPEN MICS & OTHER EVENTS

Open Mic Night
Mon at 8.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

The Quiz
Tue at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Irish Session
Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Rebel Rebel Weekends
Fri, Sat at 8pm, Free
The Flapper, Kingston Row,
Birmingham, B1 2NU.
Call 0121 236 2421

Sunday Shenanigans – Open Mic night
Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free
Moochers, Stourbridge,
DY8 1PH.
Call 01384 671141

TALKS & LECTURES

An Introduction to Beekeeping
Sat at 12pm - 2pm, £15
Selly Manor Museum,
Bournville, Birmingham,
B30 1UB.
Call 0121 472 0199

FAMILY/DAYS OUT

Camper Jam
Fri, Sat, Sun, £15 on the gate
Weston Park, nr Shifnal,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01244 881 895

Cadbury World Summer Fun
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 3pm, Sat, Sun at 9.30am - 4pm,
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Cadbury World, Linden Road,
Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

Contemporary Craft Markets
Sun at 11am - 5pm, Free
mac, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Power Loom Demonstration
Sat, Tue at 12pm - 1pm, £2 - £4.50
The Museum Of Carpet,
Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ.
Call 01562 69028

Master Gilder at Work
Fri, Tue at 10am - 3pm,
£5 - £6
Museum Of Royal Worcester,
WR1 2ND.
Call 01905 21247

Family History Buddy
Wed at 9.30am - 1pm, 1.45pm - 5pm, Free
Walsall Local History Centre,
WS2 7AS. Call 01922 721305

1600s Gardening Group
Tue at 10am - 1pm, Free
The Oak House Museum, West
Bromwich, B70 8HJ.
Call 0121 553 0759

Coffee Mornings
Fri, Sat, Thu at 2pm - 5pm,
£2
Wednesbury Museum & Art
Gallery, WS10 7DF.
Call 0121 556 0683

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Swing into action with world of jazz

Florence Joelle, seen performing at Brindleyplace, is singing at this year's jazz festival Picture by Merlin Daleman

THE 31st annual Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival swings into action tomorrow (Friday) for ten days of world-class music with 177 live performances in 78 venues across the city — most of them free admission.

Musicians from the UK and France, Luxembourg, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Australia and the USA will be descending on Brum with events also taking place in Sandwell, Sutton Coldfield and Solihull.

Festival director Jim Simpson said: "This year promises to be one our our most exciting festivals to date with a daily average of 36 hours of free jazz and blues."

The international acts include France's Florence Joelle (pictured above) and Les Zauto Stompers de Paris (pictured front), Italy's Pepper & The Jellies, the Stockholm Stompers, UK regulars like Digby Fairweather and Val Wiseman plus domestic newcomers Harpers Ferry, Blues Engine and Ella Squirrell.

There will also be talks, a movie season including the first Midlands screening for Amy Winehouse documentary Amy, and a pop-up dance hall at Regency Wharf, plus a drum masterclass with Peter York from the Spencer Davis Group and performances by the Chinese Jitterbug Squad. For programme details see www.birminghamjazzfestival.com

The ultimate entertainer

WHEN you think of natural entertainers, Brian Conley quickly springs to mind. the star is currently in his element playing the role of America's greatest showman Phineas T Barnum in the exhilarating musical, Barnum, which opens at Birmingham Hippodrome on Tuesday for a month-long run.

The musical follows the dreams of Barnum and his marriage to Chairy, the woman who made his wishes come true. "Everything about Barnum is wonderful and I'm honoured to be a part of it with such a great cast," said Conley.

The production even calls upon Conley to use his magic skills and walk a tightrope and the entertainer is full of praise for the original showman.

"He was a wonderful showman, it was his idea to have the three ring circus; he went into politics; he had an affair; lost millions; got millions. It's a fantastic story with a circus background, lots of colour, lots of high comedy, and some of the best songs, I think, in musical theatre.

Barnum's wife on stage is Linzi Hateley who was in the revivals of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Oliver and Les Miserables. Linzi said: "I'm originally from Tamworth, so it's very nice to hear accents that are recognisable."

Cy Coleman's exuberant score includes the songs Come Follow The Band, The Colours Of My Life and There Is A Sucker Born Ev'ry Minute.

For tickets see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Young Rep premiere social media satire

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre's youth theatre, The Young Rep, is to stage the premiere of the debut play by Bournville's Grace Barrington, a former member of Young Rep.

Innovative comedy Me At The Zoo is a timely look at how some people project themselves via social media. The former Kings Norton Girls' School student says: "I hope that Me At The Zoo highlights a lot of problems that are manifesting within the Internet."

Meet At The Zoo, directed by Tom Mansfield, is at The Door venue on Tuesday and Wednesday Tickets are £6, concessions available, see birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Wonder Stuff and Twang join forces

TWO of the West Midlands' top indie rock bands are joining forces for a double headliner gig at the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday.

The Wonder Stuff and The Twang will appear at the Wolverhampton venue after they were originally due to feature at a proposed weekend rock festival at Dudley Castle which didn't reach fruition.

Promoted by popular indie club night Blast Off, tickets are £25 plus booking free. The Wonder Stuff had hits with Size Of A Cow and Caught in My Shadow in 1991 and The Twang went top ten with Either Way in 2007. See www.wolvescivic.co.uk or call 0870 320 7000.

Swim Deep dive in to the summer

BIRMINGHAM rising stars Swim Deep nod to 'Madchester' and psychedelic pop with their summer single One Great Song And I Could Change The World.

Released through Chess Club/RCA, the new track further reveals the band's fresh sound for forthcoming second album, Mothers, being released on September 19. That will be the follow up to 2013's debut Where The Heaven Are We.

Including last single To My Brother, the new album is the first as a five-piece after James Balmont joined. Singer Austin Williams said: "We've called it 'Mothers' as a nod to the true creators of the universe."

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, July 2, 2015

Quality with lot of choice

After opening earlier this year, Giorgios restaurant in Bridgtown, Cannock, is filling a gap – in more ways than one

A taste of the Mediterranean – Giorgio's can cater for more than 120 diners and is tastefully decorated

The restaurant is ideally placed next to the landmark Ramada Hotel

I'M on a seafood diet – I see food and I eat it. Or so the saying goes.

That could be no more evident than during my recent visit to Giorgio's Greek and Mediterranean restaurant in Cannock.

And, while the economy in Greece may not be in the best of shape, the same could not be said for Giorgio's, the likes of which Cannock has been crying out for for a number of years.

Situated in Bridge Street,Bridgtown, it is ideally placed, right next door to the landmark Ramada Hotel. Staff say hotel guests are regular customers, while passing trade comes from motorists driving along the A5, and work parties from other nearby business estates are often seen on nights out there, as on our visit.

But on particular busy nights, when diners may have to wait for a seat, there's a twist – there's a bar next door which also allows for private functions.

Plentiful

Catering for more than 120 diners, Giorgio's has an open-plan kitchen, while the walls are tastefully decorated with a scene from a Greek island that could make one think they were actually there. There's no smashing plates at the end, though.

Yet the restaurant is still in its infancy, having only opened in the new year.

Vinny Singh, a partner in the business, says patience is needed when trying to get a business off the ground, attracting the right clientele and finding the right ingredients.

Patience was certainly needed when my partner and I dropped in. The helpings were so plentiful that a lot of time was required to finish them off. And even when it proved too much, six extra people can vouch for its excellence, having been treated to a mini-feast at the office the next day.

In manager Dimitri Constaninedes, customers could not wish for a more genial host.

He is readily on hand to explain what is offered on the menu and what the dishes contain, although the menu itself does describe the fare, and vegetarian dishes are clearly marked.

Sadly, there was no humus or taramasalata because of a 'double dip' recession. I joke, of course – there was tzatziki, too, served among our starters, which included many things I couldn't even spell, never mind pronounce, After all, it's all Greek to me.

Prices start at £3.50 for the appetisers, which all come with pitta bread and olives. A bargain deal is the Greek/Cypriot special, a meze, which comprises a mix of starters and main for £16.95 for a minimum of two people.

And, it's fair too say, we tried our hand at most of what was on offer. Mains, including the traditional moussaka, are served with savoury potatoes, savoury rice and salad.

The pick for me was the souviaka, the tender beef stifado the kleftiko – described as the restaurant's signature dish – and the grilled halloumi cheese. Just the smell has the senses working overtime.

Helping these to go down was the Greek beer Mythnos. After all, when in Rome . . . or Athens. Or in this case Bridgtown.

But that wasn't all. Puddings were delivered, and followed by the piece de resistance or whatever the Greek equivalent is – a glass of the fortified mavrodaphne wine, which simply hit the spot.

All in all, a smashing time was had by all – without any broken crockery.

Giorgio's is open seven days a week, from 6pm Monday to Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. To book, call 01543 573861.

Mark Shipp

NEWS

WORLD BUFFET
RED LEAF
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A WINNER FOR STARTERS...

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RELISH A DESTINATION

CHOICE

Amanda Henderson

Casualty (BBC1, 8.50pm)
A mother on the run from the police sacrifices her life for her pregnant daughter, while Dylan learns the power of belief through a patient who has a holistic therapist, and decides that the number four is unlucky for him. Charlie's continuing battle with Louis takes a dramatic turn when he finds his son in a drug den, and his threat to inject himself if Louis does finally leads to his offer of help being accepted. Meanwhile, Cal reveals he is taking exams with Ethan, Robyn breaks up with Zach, and Lily is on the hunt for a partner. Hospital drama, starring William Beck, Derek Thompson, Gregory Foreman, George Rainsford, Amanda Henderson, Aleksy Komorowski and Crystal Yu.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker introduces the latest live coverage on the sixth day of the Grand Slam tournament at the All England Club, where the third-round singles matches continue. Coverage continues on BBC2.

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Prized Apart. The six remaining adventurers in Morocco are split into three teams of two and must build a boat from scratch and race across a huge reservoir in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Only the winners are exempt from the survival challenge – an abseil down a 300-foot waterfall in a race against the clock. The lowest-ranked three contestants are then flown back to their studio partners in the UK, who have to answer quiz questions to make it through to the next round. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates.

8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.50 Casualty. A mother on the run from the police sacrifices her life for her pregnant daughter, and Charlie has a dramatic showdown with Louis after finding him in a drug den.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. The comedian introduces an evening of stand-up with Nina Conti, Glenn Wool, Nish Kumar and Myra Dubois, and music by Rita Ora and James Bay.

10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Not Going Out. Daisy wins a place on Pointless and Lee convinces her of his intellectual prowess so she will have him as her partner. The only problem is, he is really just as stupid as her. (R)

11.20 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner invites Vernon Kay, Kelly Hoppen and Miles Jupp to discuss their pet hates, which include litter louts, toilet-roll covers and loud noises. (R)

12.00 Film: The Hot Chick. (2002) Body-swap comedy, starring Rob Schneider. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Animal Park. (R) **6.35** Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice One. **8.15** Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice Two. **9.55** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Practice Three. Lee McKenzie presents coverage from the ninth round of the season at Silverstone, where the drivers conclude their preparations. **11.05** Wimbledon 2015. The opening matches on the sixth day of the tournament. **12.10** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Qualifying. Suzi Perry presents coverage of the session at Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm), where the drivers battle for pole position ahead of tomorrow's race. **2.30** Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker presents continued coverage of day six at the All England Club, as the men's and ladies' third-round singles matches take place on the famous grass courts.

8.30 Wimbledon 2Day. Clare Balding presents a look back at the sixth day at the All England Club, as former players and celebrity guests answer questions from a studio audience to delve in detail into the day's play. Featuring third-round highlights from the show courts, interviews with the leading players and a preview of the second week of the Grand Slam tournament.

9.30 Top Gear. Compilation of two features from the most recent series. The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, with Jeremy Clarkson in a Fiat 124 Spider, Richard Hammond in an MGB GT and James May in a Peugeot 304 Cabriolet. They also enter the realm of the sports utility vehicle as they find out what sort of SUV can be bought for just a few hundred pounds before putting them through a series of challenges. (R)

10.45 Hunt v Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals. Documentary using archive footage and interviews with key players to chart the battle between Britain's James Hunt and Austria's Niki Lauda for the 1976 world drivers' championship. (R)

11.45 Film: Grand Prix. (1966) A Formula One driver trying to make a comeback has an affair with the wife of a rival racer who is recuperating after an accident. Drama, starring James Garner and Eva Marie Saint.

2.25 This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.30** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.10** This Is Lionel Richie. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a dog that steals a smartphone to film his own video, and trouble at church with the Language Barrier Bride. (R)

7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. (2009) The young wizard is given the task of uncovering the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past as the evil sorcerer's henchmen cause havoc in both the magical and Muggle worlds. With the help of headmaster Dumbledore, Harry ventures into the memories of those who knew the Dark Lord during his early years, hoping to gain an insight into the secret behind his apparent immortality. However, Voldemort's influence extends closer to home than expected, as Harry's rival Malfoy is chosen to carry out a sinister mission. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Michael Gambon, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Tom Felton and Alan Rickman.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Black Work. A suspect is taken into custody for Ryan's murder, but Jo remains unconvinced and continues investigating her husband's undercover work, leading to a disturbing revelation. (R)

11.15 Film: Burn After Reading. (2008) Two gym employees get hold of the manuscript for a CIA analyst's tell-all memoir and try to sell it to the Russians. The Coen brothers' comedy, with Brad Pitt and George Clooney.

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day of the competition in Llanelli and teaching assistant Ainsley wants to educate her guests, while serving up an authentic Russian-themed dinner party. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson embarks on an expedition along Dorset's Jurassic coast to explore the county's hidden Second World War story. Starting beside the defences on Chesil Beach, he heads east to finish in Swanage and Studland Bay. On his five-day walk he encounters stunning scenery and uncovers wartime acts of ingenuity and bravery. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. Penelope concludes her trip with visits to Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, where she sees villages that have been used on film and TV. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: GI Joe: Retaliation. (2013) Premiere. An elite military team is nearly wiped out after a terrorist organisation replaces the US president with an imposter and has them declared enemies of the state. The handful of survivors seek the help of their original leader in avenging their fallen comrades. Action adventure sequel, starring Dwayne Johnson, Ray Park and Bruce Willis.

11.10 Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day. (1991) A cyborg is sent back in time to protect the future saviour of the human race from a shape-changing assassin. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton.

1.45 The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.40** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.35 Film:** Carry On Cabby. (1963) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques. **3.25 Film:** Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. (1968) Children's musical adventure, starring Dick Van Dyke.

6.10 5 News Weekend.

6.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. More alarming tales from the buy-to-let system, including a woman's prolonged battle with her negligent landlord, and a landlady who was threatened by her rent-skipping tenant. (R)

7.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Mike Allonby and Terry Jones repossess debtors' cars in Cheshire and Liverpool, while Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple with young children a few days before Christmas. (R)

8.05 Benefits: 37 Years on the Dole. The stories of three long-term unemployed people who between them have not worked in 37 years, including one who has sent more than 2,000 unsuccessful job applications in 12 years. (R)

9.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of individuals on the dole in the UK follows the stories of Roma people who moved to the UK and are now surviving on payments from the welfare state. Ion is from Romania and wants to make £40,000 from benefits to help him build a new house for his family back in his home village, while Katarina arrived from Slovakia seven years ago and has 11 children and 11 grandchildren living in and around an estate in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. (R)

10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

11.00 He Left Me for My Mother and Other Betrayals. Stories of infidelity, with the first edition looking at the experiences of people betrayed by their partners and a family member, including Ryan Giggs' brother Rhodri. (R)

12.00 Access. **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarrm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **9.00 Film:** Shanghai Noon (2000) **10.45** Russell Howard's Good News **11.15** Family Guy **1.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **2.00** Uncle **3.30** Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **8.00** Natural World **9.00** Cordon **10.40** Arena: Amy Winehouse – The Day She Came to Dingle **11.40** When Albums Ruled the World **1.10** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Natural World **2.40** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.05 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **1.00 Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **2.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.05 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00** Love Island **10.00 Film:** The Break-Up (2006) **12.15** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.45** Love Island **1.45** Crazy Beaches **2.35** Teleshopping **5.35** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
2.40 A Touch of Frost **4.50 Film:** Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Wycliffe **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Storage Wars **1.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the opening stage of this year's race. **5.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **6.30** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** Diamonds Are Forever (1971) **10.30 Film:** First Blood (1982) **12.25** The Cycle Show **1.25** Tour de France Highlights **2.15** Nitro Circus **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Melissa & Joey **1.00** Baby Daddy **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00 Film:** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **5.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Attack the Block (2011) **10.45** Gogglebox **12.55** The IT Crowd **2.00** Virtually Famous **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Rules of Engagement **4.20** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Night Passage (1957) **1.00** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **3.05** The Princess Diaries (2001) **5.20** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **7.10** The Three Stooges (2012) **9.00** Patriot Games (1992) **11.15** Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) **1.15** Inferno (1980) **3.30** Close

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, July 2, 2015

CHOICE

Emily Watson

A Song for Jenny (BBC1, 9pm)
Drama, based on Julie Nicholson's book of the same name, which explores her response to her daughter's death at Edgware Road tube station in the July 7 bombings. The rollercoaster of emotions experienced by Julie and her family after the attack is explored; from hope, denial and acceptance, to grief and the desire to honour Jenny. The programme coincides with the forthcoming 10th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London and is a tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack. Emily Watson, Gwilym Lee, Steven Mackintosh, Nicola Wren, Martha Mackintosh, Laurence Belcher, Alan Rothwell, June Watson, Anne Stallybrass and John Woodvine star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry presents coverage of the race at Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Prized Apart. (R) **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. Claire McColfum hears stories of faith in an episode marking the 10th anniversary of the July 7th London bombings, while Pam Rhodes meets Christians from Korea touring the UK. **5.35** Nature's Greatest Dancers. Steve Backshall examines dances that are necessary for animals' survival, featuring footage of lemurs, shrews, toads and whales, with music including Olly Murs and the Bee Gees.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker looks for basking sharks off the Cornish coast and scours the shoreline for shark egg cases. Ellie Harrison visits a project to map the entire UK coastline and learns about stinging nettles. John Craven reports on links between Cornish food producers and the Eden project, Tom Heap explores the county's underground resources, and Adam Henson meets some African agricultural experts visiting the UK. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? New series. Fiona Bruce and art experts Philip Mould and Bendor Grosvenor come to the aid of a man who has inherited three paintings and needs to prove they are by LS Lowry.

9.00 A Song for Jenny. An exploration of Julie Nicholson's reaction to her daughter's death during the July 7 bombings in London. Adapted from Nicholson's book, and starring Emily Watson.

10.20 BBC News.

10.40 Regional Programme.

10.50 Live at the Apollo. Alan Carr hosts the stand-up show at London's Hammersmith Apollo, introducing routines by comedians Andi Osho and Patrick Kielty. (R)

11.35 Don't Tell the Bride. A hard-rocking groom-to-be plans a Guns N' Roses-themed wedding, unaware that his wife-to-be is not quite the metal-head he believes her to be. (R)

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.15** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** F1 Rewind – Great Britain; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.20** Athletics. **2.20** Live Athletics. The British Championships.

6.00 Film: John Carter. (2012) An American Civil War soldier is transported to an alien planet, which is also being torn apart by conflict. He intercedes in this struggle after rescuing a princess from captivity, and must win the trust of a fierce primitive tribe to save the world. Fantasy adventure based on Edgar Rice Burroughs' series of novels, starring Taylor Kitsch and Lynn Collins. Edited for daytime broadcast.

8.00 Best of Top Gear. Motoring magazine, featuring test drives of the latest models.

9.00 Odyssey. Now captive in Bamako, Odelle has to prove her value to an Ansar Dine interrogator, while Harrison turns to his father for help when he learns he has a connection to Colonel Glen.

9.45 Family Guy. New series. The Griffin family find themselves stuck in Springfield, home to The Simpsons, after fleeing Quahog when Peter faces a backlash over a misogynistic comic strip.

10.25 Family Guy. The residents of Quahog turn against one another as they become embroiled in a treasure hunt based on Peter's interpretation of a restaurant placemat.

10.50 Family Guy. Peter discovers that he has a vestigial twin growing out of his neck and names him Chip. However, he soon becomes jealous of the attention the new arrival is receiving.

11.10 Family Guy. Quagmire finally meets a woman with a sexual appetite as insatiable as his, but things take a turn for the worse when she makes him her sex slave.

11.30 Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. The final (Kick-off 12.00am). Coverage of the match held at BC Place in Vancouver, Canada, as the teams battle it out for the title won by Japan in 2011.

2.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.30** Holby City. (R) **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.40** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.40 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.55 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby makes dreams come true. Featuring a performance by Little Mix, two sisters meeting for the first time, and a detection dog with a surprise for an audience member.

9.00 Black Work. Jo is left reeling as the secrets she has uncovered prove devastating for her family. She decides to abandon her investigation into Ryan's death out of fear she is endangering her children. However, when another body is discovered, she realises that her husband's murderer is still at large, and it is up to her to see that he is brought to justice. But as she takes up the case again, she does not realise that the killer could be terrifyingly close to home. Conclusion of the three-part crime drama, starring Sheridan Smith. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Tensions reach boiling point as the celebrities face their toughest challenge yet, navigating down a powerful river, building shelters, catching food and enduring a tropical storm. (R)

11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Bruno Tonioli. The flamboyant Strictly judge lifts the lid on his life and career as a dancer and choreographer. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. Kevin heads toward the Arctic Circle to meet Richard and Claire Rees, an Welsh couple who have given up their jobs and former lives to reside in a basic wooden cabin in the snow-covered forests of northern Sweden. Living off-grid, with no electricity or running water, and facing temperatures that can go as low as minus 30C, simply surviving is a challenge. Kevin helps with the arduous daily tasks of chopping wood and collecting water from under the ice, learning that a cup of coffee can take an hour to make. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. George Clarke introduces the nominees in the Pub Sheds category, including a pirate-themed structure, a gin distillery, a biker pub that once housed a helicopter and a nightclub with a collection of shrunken heads. He also looks at budget sheds, featuring a hillbilly hut on wheels, a garden pavilion made of firewood, a Nepalese mountain hut and a shed made from the ruins of beach huts.

9.00 Humans. Anita is taken for testing, which yields a surprising revelation, Pete's selfish behaviour drives Jill from the house, Hobb closes in on Niska, and Mattie gets in touch with Leo.

10.00 Film: The Grey. (2011) Eight stranded oil rig workers must make a gruelling journey across the Alaskan tundra, stalked by a pack of ferocious wolves. Adventure, starring Liam Neeson and Frank Grillo.

12.15 Rude Tube. (R) **1.10 Film:** The Talented Mr Ripley. (1999) **3.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** River Cottage Bites. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. **7.40** Mio Mao. (R) **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.55** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40 Film:** Kate & Leopold. (2001) Time travel romantic comedy, with Hugh Jackman. **2.50 Film:** Entrapment. (1999) Crime thriller, starring Sean Connery. **5.05 Film:** Hercules. (1997) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tate Donovan.

6.45 5 News Weekend.

6.50 Film: You, Me and Dupree. (2006) Thirtysomething slacker Dupree finds himself out of a job with nowhere to live, and turns to his newly married best friend Carl for a place to stay. But Carl comes to regret his act of hospitality as the layabout shows no sign of ever moving out – not to mention his annoyance when his new wife takes a liking to their laid-back guest. Comedy, starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon, Kate Hudson and Michael Douglas. Edited for language and sexual content.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Film: A Deadly Adoption. (2015) Premiere. A successful couple take in a pregnant woman, hoping to adopt her baby, but the arrangement has perilous consequences. Thriller spoof, starring Will Ferrell.

11.45 Film: Assumed Killer. (2013) An amnesiac news reporter begins to suspect her husband is the serial killer she was investigating when she lost her memory. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro and Casper Van Dien. Edited for content.

1.30 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: British Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00 Film:** Shanghai Knights (2003) **10.45** Russell Howard's Good News **11.45** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **12.30** Family Guy **12.55** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **1.55** Uncle **3.25** Russell Howard's Good News **3.55** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Dalai Lama at 80 **7.30** Schonbrunn Summer Night Concert From Vienna **9.00** Pappano's Classic Voices **10.00 Film:** Far from the Madding Crowd (1967) **12.40** Dalai Lama at 80 **1.10** Rock 'n' Roll America **2.10** Schonbrunn Summer Night Concert From Vienna **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.30 Take Me Out **12.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.25** Love Island **2.30 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **4.15 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **6.30 Film:** Jurassic Park (1993) **9.00** Love Island **10.00 Film:** Scary Movie V (2013) **11.50** Fake Reaction **12.30** Love Island **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Life's Funniest Moments **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

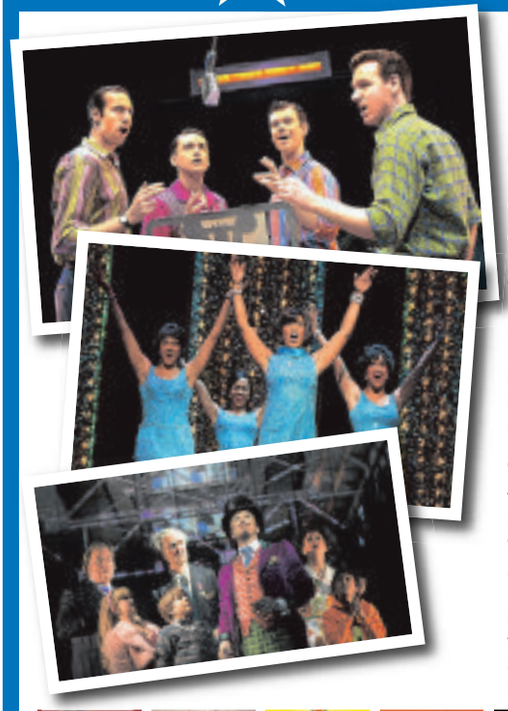
ITV3
11.05 Film: Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **1.20** Goodbye Mr Chips **3.20** Wycliffe **4.35 Film:** The Railway Children (1970) **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** Joanna Lumley: The Search for Noah's Ark **10.30 Film:** The American President (1995) **12.50** Blue Murder **2.05** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **2.50** Man About the House **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 The Cycle Show **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live. **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.30** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Greg LeMond: Slaying the Badger **9.50** Movies Now **10.00 Film:** The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **1.10** Hell on Wheels **2.05** Tour de France Highlights **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.00 Film:** Penelope (2006) **3.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.30 Film:** The Net (1995) **7.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The IT Crowd **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Tattoos After Dark **3.00** My Mad Fat Diary **3.55** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** The Parent Trap (1998) **3.40** Earthquake (1974) **6.15** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **9.00** Colombiana (2011) **11.10** The Client (1994) **1.30** Holy Motors (2012) **3.50** Close

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



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**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Trail to Hope Rose, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A former outlaw trying to make a fresh start in a mining town is tempted by an old friend to carry out a payroll robbery. Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips and Ernest Borgnine. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2004)

TUESDAY
Imagine: Beware of Mr Baker, BBC1, 10.35pm
In this award-winning documentary, Cream drummer Ginger Baker reflects on his 60-year career, which began in the jazz clubs of Soho and led to sell-out stadium concerts, via the back streets of Lagos, Nigeria. Director Jay Bulger catches up with the musician at his South African ranch to talk drums, drugs and everything in-between. However, it remains to be seen whether the young film-maker has bitten off more than he can chew. (2012)

WEDNESDAY
The Negotiator, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A desperate mother takes the patients and staff of an entire hospital hostage, demanding a rare experimental drug for her daughter, who is dying of cancer. An FBI agent is assigned to resolve the crisis, but faces a conflict of loyalties when she realises the girl in question is a friend of her own child. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm and Chandra West. (2005)

Hard Target, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

THURSDAY
Lone Rider, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A veteran of the American Civil War returns to his home town to discover a former friend, who has become a ruthless land baron, is intent on seizing his father's ranch, forcing the hardened soldier to take up arms once more to protect his family and property. Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. (2008)

FRIDAY
Hard Target, ITV, 11.10pm
A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. (1993)

Horticultural enthusiasts put their skills to the test

Celebrity gardeners have been around almost since TV was invented – after all, Britons do tend to take great pride in their horticultural havens.

Percy Thrower was perhaps the first green-fingered small-screen superstar, and he inspired several generations of youngsters thanks to his appearances on Blue Peter from 1974 to 1987 – some may remember that Percy was behind the creation of the programme's garden at Television Centre.

Other famous faces have come and gone over the years, and during the past couple of decades, a few have tended to have very apt names indeed – think of Alan Titchmarsh, Bob Flowerdew and Pippa Greenwood, and you'll see what we mean; it's almost as if they were born to do a specific job.

Now there's a new name to add to that list, and his moniker is even more fitting than those mentioned above. Anthony Gardner is a garden designer by trade, and he's much in demand, having won numerous awards for his work.

He was also recently diagnosed as having Asperger's syndrome. He believes the condition has helped him get to the top of his profession, and now he wants to find out if others with conditions that, like Asperger's, fall within the autistic syndrome, can excel as horticulturists too.

"What makes us autists such great gardeners is what goes on in our weirdly wired minds," says Alan. "I want to prove that we're not mad…we just see things in a different way.

"Not a lot of people know that mathematical formulas occur in flowers, stamens, petals, leaves, and from these mathematical sequences you can create patterns to actually construct brilliant gardens."

During this new, four-part programme, he will chart the progress of five people as they join forces to transform neglected plots into something of which even Capability Brown himself would have been proud.

They have just a week to carry out each task, and must stick to a strict budget – but as time and finance are alien concepts to the participants, that may prove trickier than anybody else could imagine.

Among the team is Thomas, who is 19 and struggles to communicate, but loves the order and precision of horticulture. Charles, meanwhile, is a decade older, has a passion for vegetables and dreams of living entirely off the land.

Philip is 30 and is the group's exotic plant expert; he has more than 60 species of cacti in his collection, while James, 25, is a walking plant encyclopaedia, but can't make eye contact with those around him.

Finally, there's Victoria, who is a 27-year-old with a flair for colour.

The group's first task sees them travel to Ashbourne in Derbyshire, where homeowners Ben and Rebecca have an overgrown wilderness where their back garden should be. What they want in exchange for that is a low-maintenance and fun garden that their entire family can enjoy.

With a budget of £3,000, Alan and the gang set to work – here's hoping their efforts live up to expectations.

Alan Gardener features, The Autistic Gardener, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Vicious
ITV, 9pm
Freddie and Stuart prepare for their big day, but things run far from smoothly with the appearance of an unexpected guest at the wedding, and it's not long before the blissful event becomes a potential disaster. Violet announces that her husband Jasper has returned and warns Ash not to flirt with her in front of him as he is insanely jealous, while Penelope and Mason hit a series of snags when they are sent to collect the wedding cake. Comedy, starring Ian McKellen, Derek Jacobi, Frances de la Tour and Iwan Rheon. Last in the series.

TUESDAY
Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
Channel 4, 8pm
Cleaning obsessives Hayley and Dann head for Plas Teg, a 17th-century Jacobean manor in the heart of Flintshire, north Wales. This 10-bedroom Italian-inspired residence is home to Cornelia and her 12 cats, and is also said to be one of the most haunted houses in Wales. Cornelia is desperate to generate income to restore the Grade I listed building to its former glory, so Hayley and Dann have agreed to spend five days cleaning alongside her, pushing their boundaries and challenging their germ phobia.

Virgin Atlantic
ITV, 9pm
Founded back in June 1984, Virgin Atlantic has just celebrated it's 30th year as one of the world's leading airlines. This documentary series goes behind the scenes of the business, following staff at all levels, from founder Richard Branson, and the Chief Exec to new cabin crew recruits and the boys in the warehouse, as the company rolls out a new plane, new uniforms and new people – and tries to get back in the black. In episode one, we meet the team at the Virgin Atlantic base in Crawley, preparing for the airline's birthday event, as Branson, who founded the airline when he was just 34, makes a rare appearance. Cameras also follow 58-year-old grandmother Katrine, who is hoping to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a 'trolley dolly'.

WEDNESDAY
Children of the Gaza War
BBC2, 9pm
During the past six years, children growing up on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have experienced three wars. One of these conflicts, which took place in 2014 and last 51 days, resulted in the deaths of more than 500 youngsters, all but of them Palestinian. Almost every child in Gaza has lost a family member to the ongoing unrest, while those on the Israeli side of the border live in constant fear of rocket attacks and raids from gunmen using underground tunnels. 'It's no not fair,' says 10-year-old Michal, who lives in a kibbutz less than a mile from the Gaza border. 'Your home is supposed to be the safest place in the world for you, but it's just not true.' He and others like him talks to presenter Lyse Dourcet about their often terrifying experiences.

Frank Skinner: Man in a Suit, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
Grand Designs: Living in the City
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Kevin McCloud presents the first of four special programmes inspired by 15 years of Grand Designs. He begins with a look at the challenges of self-building in the city, where space is at a premium and architects have to be at their most ingenious. Kevin uses footage from the best urban builds from the show over the years, meets pioneers at the forefront of the latest architectural thinking and looks at clever innovations that continue to transform people's lives to reveal which designs work best and why.

FRIDAY
Frank Skinner: Man in a Suit
BBC1, 10.35pm
For a while, it looked like Frank Skinner was mellowing. On panel shows in particular, he's positively genial, willing to take a back seat and let the guests hog the spotlight on Room 101. But don't let that fool you into thinking that Skinner isn't as sharp as ever, especially when it comes to stand-up. This show was filmed during his 2014 tour, his first in seven years, and finds that while he may have grown up a bit since the laddish days of Fantasy Football, he's still capable of brilliantly funny and occasionally filthy one-liners. The set also finds him musing on the nature of fame, and his own spot in the celebrity pecking order – and if this is show is anything to go by, he'll be at the top of the comedy tree for quite some time.

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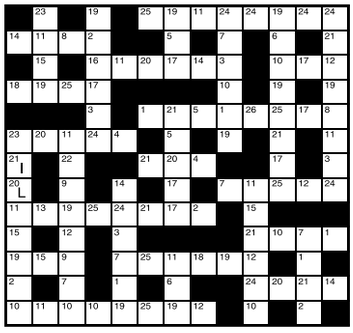
BRAIN GYM No.332

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20 L
8	21 I
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	T	W	S	Y	B	A	Q	J	I	N	R	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	D	O	M	P	U	F	G	V	X	L	Z	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Reduced to the lowest level (5)
4. Fruit is when rain's about (7)
8. You might find merit in the meantime (7)
9. He lives an ordered existence (5)
10. A minor drawback (4)
11. Not very bright but in charge of the players (8)
13. Regrets the ways of the French (4)
14. Fifty-one and single (4)
16. It's always torn out with great respect (8)
17. Heavenly arts review (4)
20. Letter comes from a number unusually late (5)
21. Country where men burst into song (7)
22. Objects about the French not finishing (7)
23. Make fun of one's peers (5)

Down

1. It takes over lines of communication (7,6)
2. Wood spirit (5)
3. Read as a challenge (4)
4. Take out a form (6)
5. It's not so good, being a subordinate (8)
6. Flatter most sincerely (7)
7. He may get carried away without knowing it (9,4)
12. Shrink - and iron? (8)
13. Certainly given no encouragement to save up! (7)
15. Inserts in songs (6)
18. Singer put right after the wrong note (5)
19. A doctor's name (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Protect (5)
4. Take prisoner (7)
8. Umpire (7)
9. Deign (5)
10. Moist (4)
11. Gift (8)
13. Lash (4)
14. Dash (4)
16. Amount (8)
17. Dreadful (4)
20. Ethics of a community (5)
21. Train (7)
22. Torture (7)
23. Clothing (5)

Down

1. Bombastic (13)
2. Set of records (5)
3. Function (4)
4. Box (6)
5. Fairly good (8)
6. Ideal (7)
7. High cost (13)
12. Aversion (8)
13. Climate (7)
15. Road (6)
18. Angry (5)
19. Store (4)

Sudoku

	3			5	7			
9			3				2	
		2			4		3	6
		3	4	7		6		1
	8						9	
4		1		8	9	3		
5			8			1		
	2			3			4	8
			5	4			7	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	2	8	4	9	6	3	7
6	7	9	3	5	1	8	2	4
4	8	3	7	2	6	1	5	9
7	9	8	6	1	2	5	4	3
3	4	5	9	8	7	2	1	6
2	1	6	5	3	4	9	7	8
9	6	4	2	7	5	3	8	1
5	3	7	1	9	8	4	6	2
8	2	1	4	6	3	7	9	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Protester; 8 Poor; 9 Palatable; 10 Reefer; 11 Harem; 14 Skier; 15 Warm; 16 Sedan; 18 Land; 20 Olive; 21 Souls; 24 Slight; 25 Took place; 26 Shoe; 27 Gradients. Down: 1 Sparks fly; 2 Comedians; 4 Rear; 5 Tiara; 6 Seamew; 7 Eels; 9 Peers; 11 Hides; 12 Making the; 13 Amnesties; 17 Noble; 19 Docked; 22 Lilie; 23 Moor; 24 Scot. QUICK - Across: 3 Slumbered; 8 Loop; 9 Fabricate; 10 Origin; 11 Chasm; 14 Amiss; 15 Save; 16 Tibia; 18 Cite; 20 Range; 21 Exude; 24 Mentor; 25 Ingenious; 26 Edit; 27 Fertility. Down: 1 Allowance; 2 Novitiate; 4 Lean; 5 March; 6 Excess; 7 Eats; 9 First; 11 Cable; 12 Magnitude; 13 Desecrate; 17 Aries; 19 Expect; 22 Drill; 23 Once; 24 Must.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which poet wrote Paradise Lost?
2. Who was the eldest son of Queen Victoria?
3. Which Welsh actor was born Richard Jenkins in 1925?
4. How did bank robber Ned Kelly die?
5. When was the first London to Brighton veteran car rally?
6. With which item of clothing would you associate Mary Phelps Jacob?
7. Which Apollo 12 astronauts made the second moon landing?
8. On what date was the Anglo-Irish Agreement signed?
9. What is the Sooner state of the U.S.A.?
10. Where is the Sea of Rains?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Martin Luther King; 2 Andy Warhol; 3 Potomac; 4 Capricorn; 5 Herbert George; 6 Mars; 7 Sweden; 8 Austria; 9 Murder; 10 1941.

Niner: SIGNATURE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1697 gives an insect,
4569 gives an animal,
83258 gives a fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Hamilton Road, SMETHWICK,

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Offers Around £295,000

Devon Road, BEARWOOD,

A beautifully presented semi detached property in the WARLEY WOODS area comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, breakfast/kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, D/G and C/H where specified, front and rear gardens, driveway.

Offers Around £270,000

Bellefield Road, WINSON GREEN,

Well presented terraced property in popular location comprising, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated. Close to City Hospital and Summerfield School.

Offers Around £114,950

Brisbane Road, SMETHWICK,

Immaculately refurbished family home comprising, hallway, through lounge, refitted kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, refitted bathroom, well presented rear garden, double glazed and centrally heated. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE! NO ONWARD CHAIN!

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Majuba Road, EDGBASTON,

Well presented mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, spacious upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden. Ideal Investment/First Time Purchase!

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Offers Around £69,950

Gladys Road, BEARWOOD,

VIEWING A MUST! Two double bedrooms, Loft Room, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Upstairs Bathroom, Ground Floor Shower Room, central heating & part double glazing, porch, front & rear gardens.

Offers Around £125,000

Gladys Road, BEARWOOD,

A character 2 bedroom terrace property being offered to the market potentially an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity, having a through lounge with feature fire place, kitchen & bathroom, two double bedrooms, rear garden, D/G & GCH.

Offers Around £115,000

Hollymount Hagley Rd, EDGBASTON,

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Offers Around £50,000

St Paul's Road, SMETHWICK,

KEENLY PRICED! NO ONWARD CHAIN! A modern spacious semi detached property comprising, hallway with downstairs cloakroom off, front reception room with inter-connecting doors to rear reception room; with double glazed doors opening to rear garden,

Offers Around £210,000

Pool Road, SMETHWICK,

Spacious semi detached property over looking Victoria Park comprising, hallway, cloakroom, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, six bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, D/G and C/H, garage, driveway, front and rear gardens. VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

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Spacious family home with lots of potential

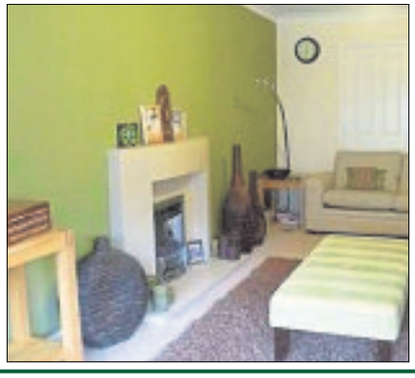
THIS four-bedroomed detached home in Goldby Drive is ideal for families.

It is for sale through Connells at £240,000.

The ground floor has a reception hall, a WC, a lounge, a dining room, a fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated dishwasher and fridge/freezer, a utility with built-in washing machine and freezer.

The first floor has an en-suite master bedroom, three further good-sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

To the rear of the house is an enclosed lawn garden with an patio area and side access. The front of the property has a drive-way for off-road parking and a garage. For details contact Connells on 0121 396 0380 or visit the website at www.connells.co.uk



Well-designed with outhouse

A TWO-BEDROOMED detached bungalow which is superbly presented in Jubilee Avenue, West Bromwich, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £159,995.

With double glazing, gas central heating and off road parking it has an entrance hall, lounge with log burner set into an open brick built open fireplace, breakfast kitchen with integrated electric oven, electric hob, cooker hood, integrated dishwasher and tiled flooring, rear hall with tiled walls and flooring, utility, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside to the front is a driveway and a small lawned area with a gate to a garden with patio, lawn and a brick built outhouse.

For further information on the property, contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 5051818 or visit the company's website by logging onto www.skitts.net

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Halesowen

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* Living room
* Kitchen
* Bathroom
* Side garage
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £205,000

Halesowen Hurst Green

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* Through living room
* Three bedrooms
* Bathroom
* Side garage
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EPC=D
Offers in the region of £125,000

Halesowen

Blakedown Road
* Semi Detached
* Three Good Sized Bedrooms
* Re-fitted Kitchen and Re-fitted Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
* Garage
* Lovely Rear Garden
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen

New John Street
* Semi-detached house
* Re-fitted kitchen
* Full width rear living room
* Three bedrooms & bathroom
* Garage
EPC=D
£129,500

Halesowen

Kent Road
* Detached house
* Corner position
* Four bedrooms (one on the ground floor)
* Wet room/wc
* House bathroom with shower cubicle and en-suite shower
* Detached garage (access via Highland Ridge)
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £329,950

Quinton

Trevanie Avenue
* Link-detached house
* Extended living room and extended re-fitted kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Ground floor and first floor shower rooms
* Low maintenance rear garden
EPC=E
Offers in the region of £220,000

Halesowen

Newlands Drive
* Extended semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Kitchen/dining room
* Through living room
* Lovely rear garden
* Small side garage
EPC=E
Offers in the region of £185,000

Oldbury

Swan Crescent
* Semi-detached house
* Kitchen/dining room
* Three bedrooms
* Off road parking
EPC=D
Offers in excess of £130,000

Halesowen

The Rosegardens
* Spacious house planned on three floors * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room/ fitted cloakroom * Lounge leading to conservatory/dining room
* Principal bedroom with en-suite
* Two further bedrooms
* House bathroom
* Enclosed gardens, carport and parking space * Double glazed windows, gas boiler heating radiators EPC=C
£179,950

Romsley

Romsley Hill Grange
Farley Lane
* A secluded position with aspect onto the landscaped grounds and woodland
* The ground floor apartment in a unique building (of just two apartments)
* Three bedrooms (Principal en-suite)
* Bathroom * Spacious kitchen/ breakfast room and utility area
* Open plan lounge and inner dining area * Double garage *EPC=D
Offers in the region of £285,000

Halesowen

Hardwick Drive
* Attractive semi-detached house with open aspect * 3 Bedrooms * Bathroom
* Small garage/store
* Fitted Kitchen with appliances/Dining Room
* Store/Utility Area * Lounge opening to garden * Gas Boiler Heating Radiators
* Double Glazed Windows
* Pleasant Garden with Summerhouse
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £159,950

Oldbury

Pound Road
* Semi detached house
* Recently re-planned and modernised
* Two reception rooms
* Three Bedrooms
* Kitchen with breakfast area
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £185,000

Halesowen

Middlefield Avenue
* Semi detached house
* Through living room and dining room and extended kitchen
* Utility and wc
* Four bedrooms
* Garage
* Good sized rear garden
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £224,950

Oldbury

Broadway Court
Pottery Road
* Second floor flat
* Kitchen/living room
* Bedroom
* Bathroom
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £89,950

Oldbury

Chester Rise
* Mid Terraced house
* Three bedrooms
* Modern Kitchen
* Rear Garden
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £124,950

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Milcote Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £264,950

Barston Road, Oldbury

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £149,950

Glyn Farm Road, Quinton

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £165,000

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £169,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £359,950

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Lightwoods Road, Bearwood

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Birch Road, Oldbury

COMPLETED IN MAY. 106% OF THE ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED!

Anderson Road, Bearwood

COMPLETED IN JUNE. 97% OF THE ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED!

Rathbone Road, Bearwood

COMPLETED IN JUNE. 99% OF THE ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED!

Crawford Avenue, Smethwick

COMPLETED IN JUNE. 96% OF THE ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED!

Park Road, Bearwood

COMPLETED IN MAY. 101% OF THE ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED!

Mariner Avenue, Edgbaston

COMPLETED IN MAY. 100% OF THE ASKING PRICE ACHIEVED!

Beechwood Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the Region of £229,950

Topsham Road, Smethwick

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £124,950

Herbert Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £219,950

Carisbrooke Court, 19 Sandon Road, Edgbaston

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offer in the region of £129,950

Pargeter Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN JUNE! SIMILAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Offers in the region of £279.,950

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www.oulsnam.net

Stunning traditional style family residence at £250,000

THIS four-bedroomed detached family home in Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury is immaculate with a traditional style throughout.

It is on sale through Connells at £250,000.

The property comprises of an entrance porch, stairs rising to the first floor, under stair storage, a WC, a lounge with pitch pine flooring and a log burner, a sitting room with french doors and a gas fire and a kitchen with a range of fitted units, granite work surfaces, belfast sink, brick fireplace and tiled flooring. The first floor has four generous sized bedrooms and a family bathroom with a cast iron bath with a shower over, low level WC, hand wash basin, part tiling and laminate flooring. The rear of the property has a garden with a raised terrace area with steps down to the patio, lawned area, garden shed and side access.

For more information contact Connells on 0121 411 0017 or visit www.connells.co.uk

Imposing property is well maintained

AN imposing residence, 49 Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton has been significantly extended and well maintained.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £250,000 with no chain.

It has had a substantial kitchen extension and garage addition, majority double glazing, a combination boiler and a re-appointed shower room.

It briefly comprises an imposing reception hall, a through lounge with a feature Adam-style fireplace with living flame gas fire, a dining room with a feature living flame fire, cloaks cupboard, inner hallway, a cellerage, shower/wet room, breakfast kitchen with fridge/freezer, electric oven, breakfast bar and dishwasher, utility, three first floor bedrooms and a shower room.

Call Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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Photograph of a Kier showhome interior. Elevations and finishes may vary. ^Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

Modern ground floor apartment with parking

THIS modern ground floor apartment in Summerton Road, Oldbury is for sale through Your Move at offers over £80,000.

Coming with allocated parking and communal gardens. A door leads into the entrance hallway having doors to the two double bedrooms and into the bathroom which has a white modern suite.

The open lounge/diner has access into the fitted kitchen with a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, oven and gas hob with extractor hood above.

Call Your Move on 0121 4217766 or visit www.your-move.co.uk

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GREAT ARTHUR STREET, B66 1DF

- A Well Presented Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central heating & Double Glazing
- Driveway, Front & Rear Gardens
- Freehold, AWAITING EPC

£139,950

LYNDHURST ROAD, B71 3JE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Majorty Double Glazing
- Freehold
- EPC Rating D

£157,500

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Garage & Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£239,950

DURHAM DRIVE, B71 1HS

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£110,000

JAMES WATT STREET, B71 2AH

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£129,950

COLES LANE, B71 2QJ

- An Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, EPC Rating D
- Central Heating, Driveway
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£139,950

STOUR STREET, B70 9AX

- A truly outstanding detached family home
- Award winning leisure complex
- Indoor heated swimming pool and gym
- Four bedrooms with two en suites
- Living Room, Dining Area, Office
- Kitchen, Laundry, Entertainment Room
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- Stamp duty and legal fees paid by vendor

£399,950

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£139,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RR

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£220,000

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POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

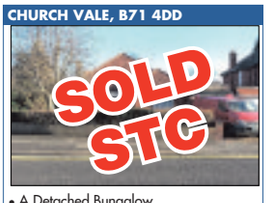
£78,950

GORSTY CLOSE, B71 3EB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- Freehold

£99,950

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD



- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£229,950

WALSALL ROAD, B71 3JD

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- External Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£109,950

WHITGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

£104,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear

£119,950

REFORM STREET, B70 7PE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC TBC Freehold

£155,950

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NEW

7 SOUTHFIELD ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Refurbished mid-terraced
- Easy access to city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

77 HILL TOP ROAD, OLDBURY

- Freehold semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms & bathroom
- Hall, lounge & kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £132,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

10A ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD

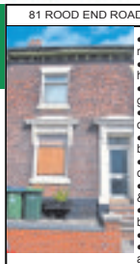
- Individual cottage style detached residence
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Easily maintained gardens
- Off street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

81 ROOD END ROAD, OLDBURY



- Well presented mid-terraced
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually double glazed t/out
- Number of original features
- THREE bedrooms
- First floor cloakroom
- Hall, dining room & lounge
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Ideal FTBs
- Inspection to be appreciated
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

4 SHERWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Extended mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & occasional bed. 3/ box room
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Kitchen and extended utility/ dining room
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON £170,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

52 BROADWAY OLDBURY

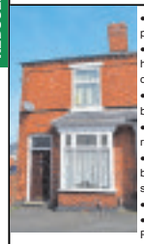
- Freehold semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom with electric shower
- Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Good size conservatory
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Side garage and off-street parking
- An ideal family home
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

2 ETHEL STREET, LANGLEY



- End terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fully tiled bathroom with shower
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

102 POPLAR ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 3 beds & first floor bathroom
- Vestibule & hallway
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen & utility
- Downstairs bathroom
- Off-street parking at rear
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £182,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

51 THRONE CRESCENT, ROWLEY

- Well Presented & Extended
- 3 bedrooms
- Downstairs wetroom
- Lounge & extended sitting room
- Spacious garden
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewings : Bearwood Office

191 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Well presented semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed & alarmed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Off-street parking

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

28 PHEASANT ROAD, SMETHWICK

- End town house
- Close to Warley Woods
- Virtually PVC double glazed t/out
- 3 bedrooms & bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Conservatory
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking
- Side garage
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

4 HUNTLANDS ROAD, HALESOWEN

- Semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms & Bathroom
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Side garage

OFFERS BASED ON £195,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

41 WESTFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Mid-terraced property
- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- 3 bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Bathroom & separate WC
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

6 JOHNSONS GROVE, OLDBURY

- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Link detached bungalow
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Off-street parking
- Fully tiled shower room & separate cloakroom
- Lounge, refitted kitchen & conservatory
- Two/three bedrooms
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £175,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

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4 BALDWIN STREET, SMETHWICK

- Semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 3 bedrooms & bathroom
- Two recepton rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Extended kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

26 WATERSIDE COURT, OLDBURY

- First floor apartment
- Close Wolverhampton Rd
- 2 bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Communal gardens
- Secure allocated parking
- ENERGY RATING: B

OFFERS BASED ON £104,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

88 STANHOPE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Quiet cul-de-sac
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually double glazed t/out
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled shower room
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/ breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

75 RAWLINGS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Located close to the main high street and within easy reach of Warley Woods and Lightwoods Park
- 2 Double bedrooms
- Bathroom with electric shower
- 2 Rreception rooms and fitted kitchen
- Garden
- Ideally suited for first time buyers

OFFERS BASED ON £132,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

77 CHESHIRE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced house
- Close Cape Hill
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Shower room
- Through lounge/dining room
- Superb refitted kitchen
- Utility/ breakfast room
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

4 GOODWYN AVENUE, OLDBURY

- Quiet cul-de-sac
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms & bathroom
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £179.950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

PRICES from £59,000

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Doulton Road, Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

Brookfield Way, Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA

OIRO £187,500

Hollies Drive, Wednesbury
- Three Story
- Traditional Semi-detached house
- Entrance Hallway
- Three Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Five Bedrooms

OIRO £185,000

Aster Way, Walsall
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Well Maintained
- Off Road Parking
- En-suite Bathroom
- Garage

OIRO £169,995

James Watt Street, West Bromwich
- Semi-detached
- Porch
- Two reception rooms
- Extended kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom

OIRO £169,950

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury
- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

OIRO £140,000

Old Park Road, Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £124,950

Tame Street, West Bromwich
- Mid Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

Rough Hay Road, Wednesbury
- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORYS
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST BAR
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C

£179,950

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SILVER — MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2014 — MEDIUM AGENCY — THE SUNDAY TIMES / THE TIMES

BRONZE — FRANCHISE ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2014 — IN ASSOCIATION WITH — THE SUNDAY TIMES / THE TIMES

"Judges Comments: The directors' knowledge is exemplary and this is filtered down to the rest of the team. Customers using Goodchilds can feel assured that they're in good hands."

Hall Street East, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Sheldon Avenue, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms
- End Terrace
- Fully Refurbished
- Low Maintenance Garden
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge

Offers in Excess of £115,000

Whitehouse Street, Tipton
- IMPRESSIVE TOWN HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- THREE BEDROOMS

£117,500

Salter Road, Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £99,950

Toll End Road, Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Houliston Close, Wednesbury
- ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●●
- Well presented townhouse
- Two bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Smith Avenue, Wednesbury
- Semi detached
- Entrance porch
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted bathroom

£95,000

Moxley Road, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN

£89,950

Thunderbolt Way, Tipton
- Second Floor
- Entrance Hallway
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

OIRO £89,950

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom & Downstairs WC
- Will Bring £560 PCM
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- TWO SOLD ONE LEFT!

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Mark Road, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in Excess of £87,000

Bonneville Close, Tipton
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- GREAT ASPECT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO BEDROOMS

OIRO £85,000

Westbury Road, Wednesbury
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM

OIRO £85,000

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIRO £80,000

King Edward Street, Wednesbury
- Two double bedrooms
- Terraced house
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Paved Area

Offers in Excess of £80,000

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Wednesbury	Tipton	West Bromwich	Willenhall	Walsall	Bilston
0121 222 1301	0121 222 1304	0121 222 1307	01902 505971	01922 460781	01902 505974

Lindley Avenue, Tipton

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Salter Road, Tipton

- Much Improved Middle Terrace
- Upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- Spacious family accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Ferguson Drive, Tipton

- Modern 3 Storey Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Accommodation
- 3/4 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £155,000
Viewing:

Hazel Road, Tipton

- Much Sought After Semi Detached Bungalow
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain ● Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Willow Drive, Oldbury

- Superbly Presented End Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Excellent Size Plot - potential to extend (STP)
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing:

Carver Court, Tipton

- Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- No Upward chain
- 1 Bedroom, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £57,000
Viewing:

Waterloo Street, Tipton

- Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 1 Bedroom, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £49,995
Viewing:

Silvertrees Road, Tipton

- modern detached
- upvc double glazing
- gas central heating
- 4 Bedrooms ● en suite, spacious family accom-

OFFERS AROUND: £187,000
Viewing:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Walsall Road

NOTICE OF OFFER
Property Address - 209a Walsall Road
We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £57,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

Birmingham Street, Wednesbury

- Extended Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Bedroom / Sitting Room
- EPC Rating: D, Two Further Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950
Viewing:

Wednesbury Oak Road, Tipton

- immaculate detached dormer bungalow
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- superb internal accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC F

OFFERS AROUND: £190,000
Viewing:

Eagle Lane, Tipton

- Modern Purpose Built First Floor Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Reception Hall
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £70,000
Viewing:

Stanway Road, West Bromwich NEW

- Double Fronted Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Central Heating, Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Bridle Grove, West Bromwich NEW

- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Central Heating, Driveway

OFFERS AROUND: £245,000
Viewing:

Margaret Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Shower Room
- EPC Rating - E, Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating D, Kitchen & Utility Room

OFFERS OVER: £90,000
Viewing:

Wood Street, Wednesbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace Home
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Kitchen & Utility Area With WC

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Coles Lane, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Through Lounge
- Conservatory
- Central Heating, Extended Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £210,000
Viewing:

Birchley Park Avenue, Oldbury NEW

- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Central Heating, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £210,000
Viewing:

Poultney Street, West Bromwich NEW

- End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway
- , First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

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NEW

Rutland Road, Bearwood

- Recently Refurbished Terrace
- Two double bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £134,950

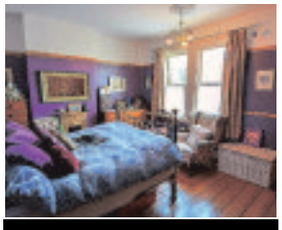
NEW

Milcote Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Excellent Location for Amenities
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW

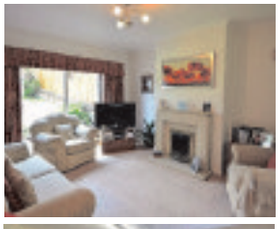


Waterloo Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Terraced Property
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Gated Off Road Parking
- Three Bedrooms
- Wealth of Features
- EP Rating TBC

Offers In The Region of £174,950

NEW

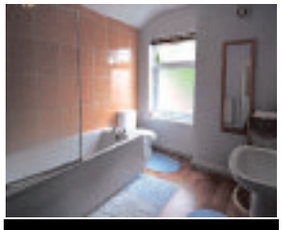


Hurst Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Semi
- Interconnecting Receptions
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £134,950

NEW



Topsham Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Through Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Upstairs Bathroom
- Ideal First Purchase/ Buy To Let
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £114,950

NEW PRICE

Richmond Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Spacious Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

NOW AVAILABLE

Trinder Road, Smethwick

- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW PRICE

The Uplands, Smethwick

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stylish Kitchen
- Separate Utility
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £112,500

WANTED!

Due to
THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS OF RECORD SALES,
we urgently require more properties to meet the demand of potential buyers.

If you are considering a move,
we want to hear from you!

NOW is the time to sell!

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Double Fronted Victorian House
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £375,000

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £194,950

Hill Top Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Modern Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £154,950

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury

- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Five Bedrooms
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £249,950

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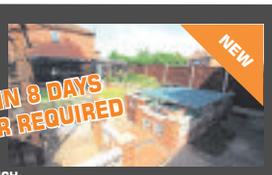
lettings@skitts.net	0121 520 2255
surveyors@skitts.net	0121 520 2255

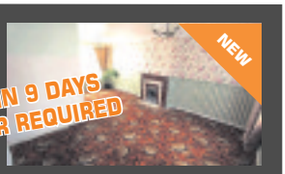
EPC: TBA



GLADSTONE STREET WEST BROMWICH
- TWO BED END TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- IN NEED OF MODERNIZATION
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£94,995

EPC: TBA



HAWTHORN ROAD WEDNESBURY
- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

£99,995

EPC: TBA

EDWIN PHILLIPS WEST BROMWICH
- A MODERN THREE BEDROOM DETACHED
- EXCELLENT CONDITION
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- SOUTH FACING GARDEN

OFFERS £154,995

EPC: D

COLES LANE WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BED EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- REAR ACCESS AFFORDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE OFF ROAD PARKING OR A GARAGE FACILITY
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRALLY HEATED

OFFERS £139,995

EPC: D

KNOWLES STREET WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- EN SUITE TO MASTER
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARAGE
- CLOSE TO TRANSPORT LINKS

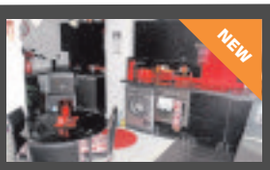
£180,000

EPC: D

SHELDON AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- A THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

£115,000

EPC: G



CARRINGTON ROAD WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE
- EXCELLENT FAMILY HOME
- LARGE KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL AREA
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£87,000

EPC: B

GRAYLING CLOSE WEDNESBURY
- MODERN THREE BEDROOM DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- UTILITY ROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- EN SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY

£189,995

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EPC:

FAIRHAVEN
- A TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN AND UTILITY
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN

£159,995

EPC: C

TEAL GROVE WEDNESBURY
- MODERN THREE BEDROOM SEMI
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- EN SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOMS
- LARGE CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

£139,995

EPC: C

BASSETT ROAD WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- PARTIAL DOUBLE GLAZING
- CENTRAL HEATING
- FRONT, REAR & SIDE GARDENS

£109,995

EPC: C

OXFORD STREET WEDNESBURY
- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- CENTRAL HEATING
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

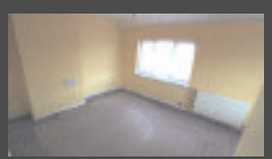
£114,995

EPC: D

BARLOW ROAD WEDNESBURY
- A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS W/C
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- CENTRAL HEATING
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

£99,995

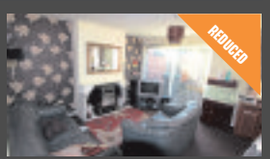
EPC: D



LLOYD STREET WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING

OFFERS £94,995

EPC: D



FRANCHISE GARDENS WEDNESBURY
- THREE BED TERRACE
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- REAR GARDEN
- GARAGE IN SEPARATE BLOCK

£80,000

ST PAULS CRESCENT WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£84,995

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Bristnall Hall Lane, Oldbury

BUYERS WANTED FOR SIMILAR PROPERTIES

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0121 420 3611

Lyttelton Road, Edgbaston £129,950

A superb ground floor apartment near to St. Augustine's church, comprising many original features, parking, communal grounds, [own entrance], large hallway, modern fitted kitchen, good size lounge, double bedroom, bathroom and central heating (where specified). No Upward Chain. EPC: D

Montague Road, Smethwick £149,950

A semi-detached property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom. Outside: garage, parking, gardens to front, side and rear. EPC: D

Winson Street, Birmingham £42,500

A one bedroom ground floor flat located in a popular and convenient residential location within close proximity to local amenities and schools, representing the ideal first time buy or investment. Accommodation comprises: open plan lounge/kitchen/diner, bedroom and shower room. EPC: F

South Road, Hockley £115,000

Recently refurbished mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs family bathroom, three bedrooms, upstairs WC, off-road parking and gardens to rear. EPC: E

WANTED IN BEARWOOD

WE HAVE BUYERS WAITING FOR 2 OR 3 BED HOUSES IN BEARWOOD AREA

PLEASE CALL TO ARRANGE A VALUATION

0121 420 3611

Bartleet Road, Smethwick £210,000

A well maintained detached house with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, driveway, garage and gardens to rear. EPC: D

Kent Street North, Birmingham £39,950

A well maintained first floor studio flat situated in a popular and convenient residential location representing the ideal first time buy or investment. With double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge/bedroom, shower room, kitchen. Outside: residents parking. No chain. EPC: D

Honiton Walk, Smethwick £120,000

An end townhouse having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, cloakroom, through lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, gardens to front and rear and off-road parking to rear. EPC: E

Pottery Road, Oldbury £124,950

A modern second floor apartment situated in gated grounds. Comprising open plan lounge / kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master, bathroom, intercom system, parking. Electric storage heaters and double glazing where specified. EPC: D

Clissold Street, Birmingham £130,000

A well presented and maintained mid town house having double glazing and gas central heating where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens. EPC: C

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury £299,950

EPC RATING C - Connells are proud to present this EXCEPTIONAL TRADITIONAL EXTENDED five bedroomed family home in POPULAR LOCATION. This home comes with the addition of a separate building to the rear currently used as kennels. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●●

Silverlands Avenue, Oldbury £279,950

EPC RATING E - ●●All OFFERS considered at this early stage - NO UPWARD CHAIN●● Connells are delighted to introduce this home set in the SOUGHT AFTER location of Silverlands Avenue. ●● Viewing is Highly Recommended ●●

Forest Road, Oldbury £239,950

EPC RATING D - An IMMACULATELY presented semi detached property in a POPULAR LOCATION with accommodation briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs w.c, garage, four bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway to front and rear garden. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●●

Mayfly Close, Oldbury £229,950

EPC RATING C - A modern detached property UNDER 10 YRS OLD set in the POPULAR LOCATION of The Forge development. Accommodation briefly comprises lounge/diner, kitchen/diner, snug, downstairs w.c, four bedrooms, ensuite, family bathroom, off road parking and garage. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●●

Brennand Road, Oldbury £125,000

EPC RATING D - A GOOD SIZED end terraced property set over three floors with accommodation comprising entrance hall, through lounge/ diner, breakfast kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms, shower room and off road parking. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED●●

Ascot Close, Oldbury £124,950

EPC RATING E - Connells are pleased to present this IMMACULATE semi detached family home with accommodation briefly comprising lounge, kitchen / diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking and car port. Double glazing and storage heating where specified.

Oldbury £124,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

EPC RATING E - Connells Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £127,500 for 4 Bristam Close, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 2JP.

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 70/76 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4EB, Tel 0121 552 2671 before exchange of contracts.

Matty Road, Oldbury £119,950

EPC RATING E - ●●INVESTMENT / REFURBISHMENT OPPORTUNITY●● Connells are pleased to present this semi detached property in POPULAR location of Matty Road. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY ON OFFER●●

Pine Road, Tividale £117,950

EPC RATING D - A TRADITIONAL two bedroomed semi detached property located close to local amenities and public transport routes. The property comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, two DOUBLE bedrooms, family bathroom, garage and off road parking. The property has PREVIOUSLY had PLANNING PERMISSION granted for extension

Merton Close, Oldbury £112,500

EPC RATING AWAITED - ●●AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY●● A well presented mid terraced three storey townhouse comprising lounge, fitted kitchen, two / three bedrooms, integral garage and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Bristnall Hall Crescent, Oldbury £104,950

EPC RATING E - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A traditional three bedroom semi detached property comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, guest w.c and family bathroom. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

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Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

Old Park Road, Wednesbury £240,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this traditional style four bedroom detached property retaining many of the original features comprising of dining room, lounge, sun room, fitted kitchen, breakfast room, guest cloakroom, first floor family bathroom, gated off road parking, tandem garage, enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating F.

Wheelwright Close, Wednesbury £125,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN viewing essential to appreciate this three bedroom semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, dining area, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way and garage. EPC Rating C.

Somerset Crescent, Wednesbury £110,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN a two bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hall, lounge, re-fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC Rating D.

Myvod Road, Wednesbury £135,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN viewing highly recommended to appreciate this well presented three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, lounge, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking. EPC rating E.

Field Road, Tipton £125,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this well presented three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hall, fitted breakfast kitchen, lounge, first floor family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage and drive-way. EPC rating D.

Birmingham Street, Wednesbury £125,000

A well maintained traditional style three bedroom semi detached property benefiting from No Upward Chain and briefly comprising part double glazing and central heating (as specified), entrance hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor shower-room, enclosed rear garden, garage and off road parking. EPC rating D.

St David Drive, Wednesbury £110,000

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN a modern style three bedroom end-terrace property briefly comprising of, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, conservatory, guest cloakroom, first floor bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, enclosed rear garden. EPC rating C.

King Edward Street, Wednesbury £215,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this spacious traditional four bedroom detached family home briefly comprising of guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen/ diner, conservatory, first floor family bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, drive-way providing off road parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC rating E.

The Oaks, Gospel Oak Road, Tipton £179,995

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Cupfields Avenue, Tipton £130,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this spacious three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor and first floor shower room, utility room, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC rating E.

Remembrance Road, Wednesbury £123,000

VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED to appreciate this three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) ground floor shower room, through lounge, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden. EPC rating D.

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Canterbury Road, West Bromwich £99,950

A 2 bedroom semi detached property in the Stone Cross area of West Bromwich, close to amenities and local schools, offering 2 reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified). EPC RATING D

Springfield Crescent, West Bromwich £165,000

A much improved extended 3 bedroom semi detached property situated close to West Bromwich Town Centre, offering lounge, extended modern kitchen open plan to dining room, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified) and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING D.

Thomas Guy Road, Hill Top, West £105,000

A 3 bedroom semi detached property situated on a corner plot in a residential area, having lounge, guest WC, kitchen area, dining area, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking and having NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC TBC

Wordsworth Street, West Bromwich O.I.E.O

A 2 bedroom end terrace property situated within close proximity to West Bromwich town centre and Sandwell Hospital, offering through lounge, extended kitchen/diner, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified). EPC RATING E

Heath Lane, West Bromwich £185,000

A 3 bedroom detached property, comprising of double glazing, central heating, (where specified), lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom, off road parking and enclosed rear garden. EPC RATING F.

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Cygnet Road, West Bromwich £139,950

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Turner Street, West Bromwich £103,000

A 2 bedroom end terrace property situated close to West Bromwich town centre and transport links and offers lounge, kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, double glazing and large rear garden. EPC RATING E

Tunnel Road, Hill Top, West £164,950

Situated close to local and national transport links, shops and amenities, Australia Park is a stunning new development of 3 bed semi detached houses comprising of a stylish fitted kitchen, lounge/dining room, en-suite to the master bedroom, family bathroom, downstairs guest WC, gardens, garage and off road parking. EPC RATING TBC

Pleasant Street, Hill Top £134,950

A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached property located in a popular residential area of West Bromwich and offers double glazing and central heating (where specified) through lounge, dining room, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, driveway proving off road parking. EPC RATING E

Dartmouth Street, West Bromwich £115,000

●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A 3 bedroom mid terrace, situated close to West Bromwich town centre and offering double glazing, central heating (where specified),2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, kitchen and cellar. EPC RATINGD

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NEW

OLDBURY

HAYES CRESCENT

Extended double fronted semi-detached house situated in a quiet residential location. Porch, entrance hall, lounge, conservatory, dining kitchen, utility, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking and private established rear garden. EPC Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £149,950

NEW

OLDBURY

WATERWAYS DRIVE

A Modern semi-detached house offering an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge/dining room, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, parking and private rear garden. EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £109,950

OLDBURY

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

Opportunity to acquire an established business lending itself to a number of treatments including hairdressing, beauty, weight loss, skin care etc.,, comprising hairdressing area, nail area, threading room, sunbed area, lobby, staff and customer toilets, kitchen. Staircase to first floor, five treatment rooms and storage cupboards. Parking at front and rear. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £209,950

OLDBURY

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

Traditional semi-detached family residence in need of general updating and decoration. Reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, lobby, downstairs toilet, side verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, boarded loft, central heating, double glazing, garage and parking, garden to rear. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £189,950

REDUCED

ROWLEY REGIS

SIDAWAY CLOSE

An extended, improved and well presented modern detached house comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, understairs store cupboard, master bedroom with dressing area and ensuite shower, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Central heating, double glazing, garage, utility, block paved driveway and established private rear garden. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £184,950

WEST BROMWICH

LEE STREET

Detached family residence in need of updating and improvement. Porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, lobby, rear verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom. Side extension creating a living area, kitchen area, downstairs shower room, central heating, double glazing. Garage and off road parking. Front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E

Offers in the region of £159,950

REDUCED

OLDBURY

SANDFIELDS ROAD

Detached family residence in need of general updating. Porch, entrance hall, utility room, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. Established gardens, outside toilet, off road parking and detached garage at rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £159,950

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17 Portway Road, ROWLEY REGIS
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10 Solly Grove, TIPTON
Ground Floor Flat - 1 Double Bedroom, Lounge ... Rent: £425 pcm - Deposit £550 - EPC Rating E

28 Brook Road, OLDBURY
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WEST BROMWICH

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD

A well established health and beauty family run business lending itself to numerous treatments. "L" shaped reception/waiting area, two treatment rooms, manicure & pedicure area, tanning room, cloakroom, kitchen and spray tanning area. Rear paved yard, external log cabin and portacabin. EPC Rating E

Price: £107,500

WEST BROMWICH

LIVINGSTONE ROAD

An opportunity to acquire a modern end town house situated within a poplar sought after development. The accommodation comprises lounge/dining room, kitchen, stairs to two bedrooms, and bathroom. Central heating and double glazing, rear garden and parking for two vehicles. EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £104,950

OLDBURY

FARM ROAD

A fully modernised and improved mid-terraced property. Side entrance into hall, two reception rooms, lobby, kitchen area, bathroom, staircase to first floor landing, three bedrooms, central heating, double glazing where specified, garden to rear. EPC Rating E

Offers in the region of £99,950

OLDBURY

THE PINEWAYS

Deceptively spacious ground floor flat offering an ideal investment opportunity or first time purchase comprising Lounge, store cupboard, kitchen, hallway, airing cupboard, bathroom, two bedrooms. Central heating and double glazing, private rear garden and residents parking. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £74,950

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BEARWOOD **£325,000**

NEW

FOREST ROAD, OLDBURY

STUNNING semi with GARAGE & driveway. REFITTED 14ft kitchen & separate utility & WC. 21ft lounge to rear with 14ft dining room. 4 bedrooms & REFITTED luxury bath & shower room. Lawn gardens to rear. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1642

QUINTON **£239,950**

NEW

CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

IMMACULATE semi-detached home with potential to extend to the side. REFURBISHED throughout including REFITTED 17ft kitchen diner & 15ft lounge to front. Benefits from d/s WC. 3 bedrooms & LUXURY REFITTED bathroom. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. DRIVEWAY to front, lawn garden to rear. EPC rating: D Ref: D1645

QUINTON **£189,950**

NEW PRICE

SHERWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS & EXTENDED home close to Bearwood High Street & parks. Reception room to front & OPEN PLAN kitchen diner to rear leading to lean-to utility room. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor. Low maintenance gardens. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: Ref: D1568

QUINTON **£170,000**

NEW

ST KATHERINES ROAD, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED & EXTENDED home in cul-de-sac location. 25ft lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. Utility area & office with store room. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. DRIVEWAY & southerly facing rear garden. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD **£149,950**

NEW

DEFFORD DRIVE, OLDBURY

Well presented, traditional style semi detached, CONVENIENTLY SITUATED within this POPULAR NEIGHBOURHOOD, having gas radiator heating, double glazing with 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, GARAGE and pleasant Garden. EPC E.

BEARWOOD **£144,950**

NEW

SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY

Well presented, THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED end terraced property, convenient position, having double glazing, gas radiator heating, delightful lounge, FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, 3 bedrooms, RE-FITTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant rear garden. EPC tbc. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

BEARWOOD **£124,950**

NEW PRICE

VALLEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned, 3 bedroomed end terraced property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge), rear vestibule area (having downstairs wc off), 3 bedrooms,

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QUINTON **£117,500**

MUST BE VIEWED

CLIFTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED home. Having gas radiator heating and double glazing. Requiring internal inspection and comprising of 2 reception rooms & FITTED kitchen. SUPERB d/s bathroom. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms. Pleasant low maintenance rear garden .EPC E

BEARWOOD **£109,950**

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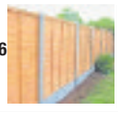

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jumble sales / fetes

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music shop

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what's on

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spring fayre

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summer fayre

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SATURDAY, JULY 4
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3 Home & Services

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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5 Business & Farming

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CLASS 1 DRIVERS X 2
and
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Minimum of 2 years experience.
Nights out when required.
Please forward CV to:
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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

CITROEN PICASSO
2007, 1.6VTX, petrol, 38,000 miles, grey, abs, e/w, air bag, e/m, a/c, fsh, MoT, c/l, c/c, pas, CD, alloys, alarm, rear parking sensors, excellent condition.
£3,500 ono.
07505 358276.

HYUNDAI ACCENT 1998, 2,985 miles only, as new and in excellent condition, full MoT. £2,500. 07917 730239.

MAZDA 3 1600, 06 plate, blue, MoT till November, 70,000 miles, lady owner, excellent condition, £2,600 ono. 07967 777825 (Birmingham).

PEUGEOT 206 HDi hatch, diesel, 55 reg, 11mths MoT, SH, EW, CL, computer dash, 69k miles. Any trial, £1,600. 0121 500 6047. West Brom

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DIESEL

HONDA CRV EXECUTIVE
2006, diesel, leather interior, sat nav, heated front seats, tow bar, Bluetooth, electric sunroof and door mirrors, CL, dog guard, radio/CD, couple of scratches, price adjusted to Parkers Guide for scratches, 100k+ mileage, MoT to end of August.
£4,400.
07774 206313
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TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 AUTOMATIC
2002. MoT'd.
Low mileage.
Very good condition.
£1,750 ono.
0121 422 1906.

TOYOTA YARIS 1300cc, 2008, 51,000 miles, alloys, a/c, s/h, 5dr, MoT Mar 2016. £3,550. 01785 296633.

TOYOTA YARIS
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£1,695 ono
07958 228555

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2010, 21,000 miles, slate grey, fsh, long MoT, stereo, £4,300 ono. 07718 268853.

cars under £1500

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£1,200 ono. 07515 690709.

CITROEN C2SX1.1, 2004, MoT Dec, alloys, CD, full elecs. Lady owner. Nice car, £750. 07486 609 897.

CITROEN C.8SX MPV 7 seater, 04, 80k, auto, s/h, full MoT. Lovely condition, £950. 07494 090 052.

CITROEN PICASSO, 2000, 1 months MoT, good runner, new clutch, £450. 01922 710651.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a Premises Licence has been made by Harjinder Kaur to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of premises known as Cafe Craft which are situated at 521 Bearwood Road, Bearwood, B66 4BE.

The proposed application is as follows:

To sell wines and beers between the hours of 11am - 11pm Mon - Sun

A record of the application may be inspected at Trading Standards and Licensing Section, Unit 33 Coneygree Road, Tipton, DY4 8XR during normal office hours Monday to Friday.

Any representations by interested parties or responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: Trading Standards & Licensing, Homes & Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS.

Dated: 29th July 2015

It is an offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine up to Level 5 (£5000) on the standard scale, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

RUBY PEARL JONES (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 44 Dartmouth Street West Bromwich West Midlands B70 8BP, who died on 23/03/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 11/09/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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(Ref: OMA/3604484p/Jones) T445002

Section 26(1)(bb) of the Marriage Act 1949
Section 6(3A)(a) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004
The Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF PREMISES
THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SANDWELL

being the authority for the purposes of the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, **HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that an application has been made by Mr R L Suglani being the proprietor of premises situated and known as **The Prestige Suite, 8 Downing Street, Smethwick, B66 2JL**, for the approval of those premises for the solemnisation of marriages in pursuance of Section 26(1)(bb) of the Marriage Act 1949 and the registration of Civil Partnerships in pursuance of Section 6(3A)(a) of The Civil Partnerships Act 2004.

The application, together with a plan of the premises which accompanied it, may be inspected at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

Between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm, and at
Sandwell Register Office, Highfields, High Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm (Monday to Friday).

Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of approval of such application, with reasons for the objection, within 21 days from the date of publication of the newspaper in which this notice appears.

Such notice of objection should be given to the Authority to: Neeraj Sharma, Director – Governance, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE (Ref: NS/AHR)

Dated 2nd July 2015

J Britton, Chief Executive
On behalf of the Authority

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
The Council are of the opinion that the proposal may affect the setting of a listed building.

DC/15/58297	Mr Mark Miles West Bromwich Albion Football Club Limited	West Bromwich Albion Football Club Fan Zone Birmingham Road West Bromwich B71 4JZ	Proposed supporter entertainment area to include toilet block, 4 No. jumbrellas, temporary match day facilities (stage, mobile catering vans, and sponsors hospitality area) and match day parking area.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (St Pauls Road, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along St Pauls Road, Wednesbury between the boundary of No.24 St Pauls Road and River Tame. The maximum duration is 18 months, the road is to be extinguished by 09/01/17, effective from 10/07/15. No diversion for traffic will be signed. Pedestrians will be diverted via an adjacent footpath. Purpose – health and safety.

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10 Personals

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Insignia, is it back to the front?

By James Parker

Vauxhall's Insignia is now the complete car it should always have been.

With smarter looks, a classier cabin, hi-tech features and a more efficient engine range, the improved first generation version of Vauxhall's Insignia has now enhanced its already impressive CV for success in the medium range Mondeo sector. More than ever, it's a model you really can't afford to overlook.

Welcome to Britain's best selling traditional family car. Yes, you heard that right. That title belongs not to the kind of family models that make the headlines – fashionable Crossovers, practical People Carriers or slinky SUVs – but to this one, Vauxhall's Insignia.

Launched in 2008 as a more stylish replacement for the uninspiring Vectra, this model was instantly well received, carrying off the coveted 2009 Car of the Year title and racking up impressive sales at the same time as other mainstream brands were struggling.

This improved model has had a thorough chassis update tested on proper bumpy British roads, with a redesigned rear suspension system to improve ride comfort and a steering calibration refreshment that's brought a more direct feel through the corners. And both of those issues can be further improved if you tick the extra-cost box for the FlexRide adaptive damping system.

Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class. But isn't now. You feel that primarily with this unit in its latest 170PS 'Whisper diesel' guise, but the older-tech 120 and 140PS ecoFLEX units are also an improvement on older Vauxhall oil burners. The 195PS 2.0 BiTurbo diesel continues on at the top of the range.In the petrol line-up, there's also a cheap old-tech engine choice – the 140PS 1.8i unit – but again, more emphasis is being put on the modern turbo powerplant offerings, the 140PS 1.4T, the 170PS 1.6 SIDI and the 250PS 2.0 SIDI. At the top of the range, a 325PS 2.0 V6 continues in the VXR SuperSports model. This VXR has 4WD but the only other model in the range that gets it is the Country Tourer estate version which, with its raised ride height, aims to offer an SUV alternative.

Bodystyles

Outside, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range. And inside? Well it feels a great deal more up to date, with many of the previously scattered and confusing little buttons tidied up onto a (sadly optional) central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to audio selections, Bluetooth 'phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

Out back, the hatch most choose offers a 530-litre boot – with 540-litres on offer in the Sports Tourer estate.

In theory, Insignia pricing covers a very wide span – anywhere between £17,000 and £33,000. In practice, almost all Insignia sales are concentrated in the £17,000 to £22,000 bracket, with most of those going to business buyers who usually want one of the 2.0-litre CDTi diesel variants. Paying much more than that for this car takes it into the BMW 3 Seriesdominated compact executive saloon bracket where mainstream makers usually struggle. Talking of saloons, there's is a four-door Insignia saloon bodystyle as a no-cost option to the more familiar five-door hatch, but it comes with a much smaller range of trim and engine choices.

For my test, I chose the Sports Tourer estate bodystyle, which is offered at a premium of around £1,500 over an equivalent hatch. Unlike the mainstream models of the other bodyshapes, this one can be had with 4WD but to get it, you have to stretch up to a top of the range Country Tourer version priced in the £25,000 to £30,000 bracket and aiming to snare RAV4 and Freelander folk who'd normally be looking at a compact SUV. The other key variant worthy of mention is the flagship VXR SuperSports model which has a potentially thirsty petrol V6 but offers more performance for a £30,000 budget thanyou'll get almost anywhere else.

Around 85 per cent of Insignia buyers go for a diesel – and you can see why. Both 120 and 140PS versions of the 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX model return 76.3mpg on the combined cycle and put out just 98g/km of CO2, returns that at launch were comfortably class-leading. Go for the extra performance of the 2.0 CDTi 170PS variant and there's not a huge price to pay at the pumps. This variant will deliver 65.7mpg on the combined cycle.

Thinking of buying a petrol-powered Insignia? If you're a lower mileage driver, perhaps the prospect might be worthy of a thought or two. The brand's current generation of turbo petrol units all do better than you'd expect on the balance sheet: the 140PS 1.4T manages 54.3mpg and 123g/km, the 170PS 1.6 SIDI delivers 47.9mpg and 139g/km and the 250PS 2.0 SIDI returns 39.2mpg and 169g/km.

This car isn't completely new – but it feels that way behind the wheel thanks to all the fresh cabin infotainment and the higher quality feel. Those that are tempted by the shinier prospects of newer rivals will, Vauxhall hopes, be brought back into the Insignia fold by class-leading running costs.

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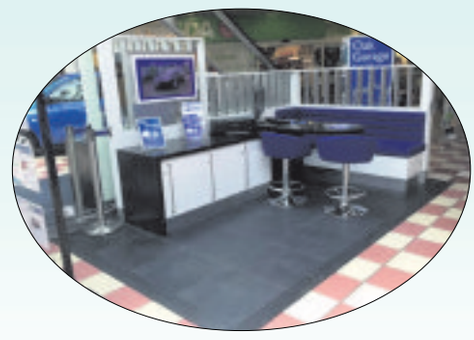

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Package is tiny but big enough to carry four

By John Griffiths

Volkswagen's city car, the up!, is one of the relatively few cars ideal for young drivers fortunate enough to be in the market for a brand new car.

So if you want to broaden its appeal, why not add some extra 'street cred' and you might also turn the heads of more style-conscious mature motorists with an eye on economy?

Enter the Street up!, one of two new special editions which build on the existing flagship models in the range.

For a modest £610 extra, Street up! gets a choice of three eye-catching paint jobs – black pearl in the case of the test car – unique 16-inch alloys, 'Street' decals, body coloured bumpers, tinted glass and chrome highlights around the fog lamps. On the inside you get a leather steering wheel, distinctive scuff plates, a black roof lining to match the carpets and a unique upholstery design.

Admittedly at £11,995 for the three door and £12,270 for the five door it's a bit of a stretch from the entry level up! at £8,765. But as well as being based on the top specification model, it also has 25 per cent more engine power.

This one litre, three cylinder unit's 75bhp doesn't put it in the 'hot hatch' category but it is certainly quicker off the mark and, perhaps more importantly, rather more refined and more relaxed to drive on the open road than the base model's 60bhp unit.

For the record, its 0 to 62mph sprint takes 13.2 seconds, compared to 14.4 for the lower rated engine.

Economy hardly suffers though, with an official average of 60.1mpg compared to 62.8 and the CO2 figures are 108 and 105g/km respectively so it stays within the same road tax band – free for the first year, £20 per annum thereafter.

The insurance group is a little higher, but still a relatively low and affordable 5E,

Small enough on the outside to snap up the last space in the car park, the up! is almost surprisingly large in the inside: big enough for four adults with the front seats in particular offering similar space and comfort as some larger cars in the next class up.

Perhaps an illustration of this Tardis-like use of space, the up! has a 251 litre boot – impressive for a city car – and that can be extended to almost 1,000 litres if you fold the rear seats down.

With its wheels pushed out to each corner the up! is inherently stable and despite being the baby of the VW family it gets the full safety pack – multiple airbags plus stability and traction control systems, ABS and electronic differential lock.

Yet it's also light and exceptionally easy to handle around town and in other tight spaces, with little in the way of invisible overhangs to worry about.

Like all small cars, it's difficult to fit the most sophisticated and complex suspension and sound-deadening systems, but that said the up! has a good compromise between ride and handling – perhaps on the firm-ish side of supple – and noise levels aren't intrusive even at motorway speeds.

This is an area where the Street up!, with it's more powerful engine not having to work so hard, has an advantage. It makes the trip more relaxing, too.

Equipment levels are comprehensive, with features such as heated front seats, air conditioning, electric front windows and door mirrors, tinted rear glass, alloy wheels, fog lights, a stereo radio/CD player and the highest grades of trim in the up! range.

It also gets 'Maps & More', a clip-on, removable device similar to after-market satnav systems but also linked in to the car itself to provide an on-screen trip meter, manage the audio system plus Bluetooth and MP3 systems.

The Street up! has been launched alongside the similar Club up!, which provides another option for the additional styling features to suit different tastes

Both could be classed as trendy or stylish additions to a practical and economical city car range. That's important when the up! is competing with the biggest seller in the class, Fiat's 500, to say nothing of rivals from within VW's own family – the SEAT Mii and the Skoda Citygo.

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05/05 SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 VVTS 4X4
Blue, 38,798 miles
£5,495

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14/14	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.7 SPORT CDTI ECOFLEX 3 door, Red, 17,090miles		£11995
12/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE AC CDTI ECO 3 door, White, 26,000miles		£6495
13/63	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SPORT GTC Red, 17,000 miles		£9995
14/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA CDTi EXCLUSIV Choice of colours and mileages		From £14750
12/12	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 MATCH 60 3 door, White, 33, 275 miles		£7495
14/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA HATCH 1.7 CDTi 130 TECH LINE 5 door, White, 17,645miles		£14995
14/64	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.4 16V TURBO SRi 5 door, Grey, 12, 211 miles		£13995
13/62	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 ACTIVE ECOFLEX 3door, Red, 27996 miles		£5995
07/07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 door, Silver, 30,721 miles		£4850
13/62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7CDTi 125 EXCLUSIV ECOFLEX 5 door, Asteroid Grey, 19,263miles		£9995
12/62	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 SRI CDTI S/S SPORTS TOURER Macadamia, 15,016miles		£10695
11/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV 5 door, Silver, 19286 miles	£7995	NOW £7795
11/61	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRi NAV 2.0 CDTi 5 door, Hatchback, Black, 36842 miles	£9495	NOW £9350
12/62	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCLUSIVE 5 door. Silver, 44281 miles	£6995	NOW £6650
14/63	VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.4 3 door, White, 15089 miles	£9995	NOW £9750
13/13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD EDITION White, 3 door, 8000 miles	£8995	NOW £8775
10/60	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Black, 39,281 miles	£6495	NOW £6345
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SRi GTC Silver, 29,000 miles	£10,495	NOW £10,250
08/08	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 TYPE-S 3 door, Silver, 49,000 miles	£5995	NOW £5795
14/14	NISSAN MICRA VISIA 1.2 5 door, White, 4010 miles	£6995	NOW £6750
11/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 EXCITE 5 door, Grey, 30010 miles	£7995	NOW £7695
11/11	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Red, 9810 miles	£7495	NOW £7350
08/58	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3 door, Blue, 53000 miles	£4995	NOW £4795
12/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3 door, Silver, 12010 miles	£6995	NOW £6795
05/05	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 ZEST 2 Red, 3 door, 49000 miles	£2495	NOW £2350
05/55	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIFE TWINPORT Silver, 5 door, 35,000 miles	£3495	NOW £3300
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 1.4 TURBO Grey, 3 door, 36,000 miles	£9995	NOW £9750
14/14	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 SRi Petrol Grey, 5 door	£12,995	NOW £12,850
11/61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 TOURER SRi CDTi AUTOMATIC Black, 12000 miles	£11,995	NOW £11,845
04/04	PEUGEOT 206 CC QUICKSILVER Convertible, Silver, 49500 miles	£3495	NOW £3275
06/56	TOYOTA AVENSIS VVTi 5 door, Silver, 27555 miles	£5495	NOW £5350
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRi VX-LINE 5 door, Black, 37795 miles	£9495	NOW £9250
64/64	VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 3 door, choice of colours, 10 miles SAVE NEARLY£4000		NOW £10,645
13/13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3 door, White, 10542 miles	£8495	NOW £8245

		WAS	NOW
05/05	MINI 1.6 COOPER Black, 50000 miles	£5995	NOW £5850
08/58	FORD KA 1.3 ZETEC Red, 3 door, 38392 miles	£2995	NOW £2495
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE Silver, 14400 miles	£9595	NOW £9395
13/13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ENERGY Blue, 5 door, 6953 miles	£10,250	NOW £9995
10/59	HYUNDAI 110 CLASSIC Blue, 29,000 miles	£4995	NOW £4750
12/62	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi Grey, 3 door, 21000 miles	£6995	NOW £6850
11/11	VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 Blue, 34,000 miles	£7695	NOW £7450
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE Silver, 5 door, 26000 miles	£9495	NOW £9275
08/58	KIA RIO DIESEL Silver, 48,000 miles	£4995	NOW £4495
08/58	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi EXCLUSIV Grey, 5 door, 49000 miles	£5695	NOW £5495
12/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 ACTIVE AC, White, 3 door, 21000 miles	£7495	NOW £7275
06/06	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 EXPRESSION ESTATE Red, 64,000 miles	£3450	NOW £2995
13/13	VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 SLAM Yellow, 10000 miles	£10,495	NOW £9995
12/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 1.4T 18000 miles	£10,995	NOW £10,495
14/14	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0 CDTi (115PS) Sportive Van 2.9t Euro 5 LWB, Diesel, White, Delivery miles		£13,995+VAT
14/14	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 SWB Diesel, New Shape/New Model, Silver, Delivery miles		£14,995+VAT
12/12	VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi EXCLUSIV 5 door, Black, 11000 miles	£12,995	NOW £11,995
14/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6 Petrol, choice of colours		From £13,495
14/64	VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 5 door, Phantom Grey, Only 10 miles, Choice	£11,495	NOW £11,250
13/13	VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.2 Red, 17000 miles	£8495	NOW £7995
13/13	VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.2 Red, 12000 miles	£8495	NOW £7995
12/62	VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 5 door, Yellow, 13000 miles	£8995	NOW £7995
06/06	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i 16V DESIGN Silver, 3 door, 53102 miles		£4995
09/09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 TURBO SRi XP Red, 3 door, 60000 miles	£6995	NOW £6495
07/57	SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5 R 5 door, Grey, 23,958 miles		£4495
14/14	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA HAT 1.8i VVT 140 SRI 5 door, Grey, 9299 miles		£12,995
14/64	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4i VVT 100PS Tech Line 5 door, Red, 5608 miles	£10,995	NOW £10,495
06/06	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CLUB CDTi 120PS Silver, 68,685 miles		£4995
13/13	VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY 1.2 A/C, 3 door, Glacier, 8733 miles		£7750
11/61	VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7 CDTi VAN White, 18241 miles		£5695 Plus vat
11/11	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE 5 door, Grey, 52159 miles		£7650
04/04	BMW Z4 2.0 SE CONVERTIBLE 2 door, Grey, 33825 miles		£9995
05/05	SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 4x4 Blue, 39000 miles		£5495
07/07	MINI ONE 1.4 3-door, Blue, 61000 miles		£5450

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Saido should be fit for new season

ALBION striker Saido Berahino is set to miss the first month of pre-season with a torn ligament – but the Baggies insist he will be fit for the new Premier League campaign.

The Baggies still want Berahino to travel on their pre-season trip to the United States as Tony Pulis steps up preparations for his first full season in charge. But Berahino could miss the earlier training camp in Austria and all four of the club's overseas friendlies with the knee injury he suffered in training with England Under-21s.

Berahino's rehabilitation will take up to four weeks – a time-frame that would see him sit out the friendly in Austria against Red Bull Salzburg and the games in America against Orlando City, Charleston Battery and Richmond Kickers.

However, the 21-year-old has avoided the need for surgery and the Baggies still hope he will join the squad on the eight-day trip across the Atlantic, with Pulis keen for his entire squad to be together to forge camaraderie. Baggies performance director Dr Mark Gillett said: "Saido has got a ligamentous tear of his knee which does not require surgery but careful rehabilitation for up to four weeks.

"We are grateful to the England medical staff for putting Saido's welfare first." Berahino was forced home from the European Under-21 Championships in the Czech Republic before a game had been played after sustaining the injury during a training session last week.

A four-week lay-off could see Berahino available for the Baggies' first domestic friendly of the summer at Walsall on July 28. They have another game at Bristol Rovers on July 31 before the Premier League season kicks off at home to Manchester City on August 8.

No decision has yet been taken on either trip, but with the eight-day visit to Austria including intensive fitness work, Berahino could be left in England to continue his rehabilitation.

The Baggies return from Austria on July 10 and leave for Florida on July 12.

Brummies prove just too strong for Heathens

INJURY-HIT Cradley were unable to get the better of local rivals Birmingham as they went down 49-40 in a top of the table clash at Perry Barr.

Despite enduring a torrid run of luck in recent weeks, the Heathens entered their home encounter with their co-tenants with a slender advantage over the Brummies at the top of the National League.

But a brave effort in front of their biggest crowd of the season was not enough to see them come out of top to preserve their advantage.

There were ominous signs for the Heathens early on, as they soon fell three points behind and struggled to close the deficit as Birmingham accounted for four of the opening five race winners.

With teenage sensation Zach Wajtknecht breaking the National League track record with a dominant win in his opening ride and Cradley largely appearing short on speed, they looked set for a long night.

However, Matt Williamson brilliantly held off opposition skipper Tom Perry in heat four to deliver the Heathens' first victory before Max Clegg gave them their first heat advantage as he triumphed in heat six.

The Brummies' top three came on strong in the closing stages, with a breathtaking blast from Perry in heat 13 followed by successive 5-1s to ensure they snatched all four points.

CRADLEY: Ellis Perks 13, Max Clegg 11, Matt Williamson 8+1, Arron Mogridge 5+2, Luke Harris 3+1, Tyler Govier 0, Nathan Greaves r/r

BIRMINGHAM: Zach Wajtknecht 14, Adam Ellis 11+1, Adam Kirby 9+3, Tom Perry 9, Sam Chapman 4+1, Alex Wilson 2+1, Sean Phillips 0

Eddie builds the future of hockey

A freak leg injury called time on Wednesbury Hockey Club coach Eddie Johnson's playing career at the age of 40.

But 23 years on, he is still playing a major role in the club's success as head of their thriving youth section.

Newcastle-born Johnson, now 63, said: "I came to Birmingham to do my teacher training and I was about 18 when I started playing for Wednesbury.

"I played until I was about 40 when I picked up a really bad injury. I tore a calf muscle which then didn't heal properly.

"It clotted up and went into a deep vein thrombosis. I was rushed into hospital one Sunday morning and they didn't let me out until the Friday because it went up into my lung.

"I could have died, I lost part of my lung and that is when I stopped playing.

"It just refocused things. I couldn't play so I just focused even more on the coaching.

"It doesn't really make it harder to coach. I don't do so much of the running stuff that I would have done as a player but you can jog, you can walk. As long as you get round the pitch it doesn't matter too much."

Harrowing

Fortunately, since that harrowing setback both Eddie and the club's youth section have gone from strength to strength.

Johnson helped form the youth team set-up back in 1988 to ensure the club could produce its own first team players after a couple of local schools stopped playing hockey.

From humble beginnings the set up has grown and it is now enjoying its highest numbers, with around 65 youngsters on the books.

Johnson, who lives in Walsall, said: "When we started we probably had about a dozen players. We could just about get a team out.

"Now there's 60-70. We have under-eights, under-10s, under-12s up to under-16s and so on.

"Over 27 years we have had hundreds of kids who have come though the ranks into the first team.

"I have got people who I coached as primary school children and now their children are playing, so there is a nice family feel to the club."

There have been some notable high-fliers to emerge from the club in that time, perhaps the most notable of all being Eddie's son Michael who played in both the 2000 and 2004 Olympics for Great Britain.

They are still producing internationals today, with 18-year-old James Greenway a current member of the British Colleges squad while the club has churned out dozens of county and regional level players during its time.

Johnson, who now has three grandchildren playing for the club's youth teams, said: "It is a real bonus if they go on to higher levels.

"It is great but we don't do it for that reason, though.

"It started off to build the club up and when you get youngsters coming through it doesn't matter whether they get to international level or whether they just play club level. It is just nice to see them getting out and playing."

Hockey runs in the family for Eddie Johnson, pictured with his grand-daughter Georgia Archer, aged eight

Sack from Baggies was brutal, says Kiely

FORMER Albion goalkeeper and coach Dean Kiely has hit out at his "brutal" and "impersonal" sacking by current Baggies boss Tony Pulis.

In an outspoken interview, Kiely likened his Hawthorns exit to being hit between the eyes with sledgehammer.

And he claimed he was 'solely responsible' for the Baggies signing England international goalkeeper Ben Foster.

Kiely left Albion in January along with coaches Keith Downing and Rob Kelly when Pulis opted to bring in his own backroom staff.

It ended an eight-year stint at The Hawthorns as player and coach for Kiely, who subsequently joined Norwich as goalkeeping coach.

He said: "It was a bit brutal, I'll be honest. It was my first time ever being sacked or put on gardening leave and it's difficult because it's really through no fault of your own.

"Tony Pulis delivered the news and said 'I've spoken to Roy Hodgson, who gave you a glowing reference, and to Dan Ashworth, who gave you a glowing reference'. This was to me, Keith Downing and Rob Kelly.

"This was face-to-face. The difficulty I have looking back is that he delivered the news to all three of us at the same time in the same room.

"That was really, really impersonal, I've got to be honest.

"After being somewhere for eight years, I was thinking 'have me in your office for five minutes and just deliver my news to me'.

"I have no animosity since I left the club."

Albion keeper goes on loan to Harriers

ALBION academy goalkeeper Alex Palmer has sealed a six-month loan-deal to National League Premier side Kidderminster Harriers.

The 18-year-old shot-stopper has been at the club for three years and played and impressed for James Shan's Under-21 side last season.

His displays were rewarded with a spot on the first team bench as Tony Pulis' side lost at Arsenal on the final day of the Premier League season in May.

He will be under the stewardship of former Premier League winner and Wolves and England keeper Tim Flowers, who rejoined the coaching staff at Aggborough last month.

Palmer played a vital part in the Black Country side's U21 campaign as James Shan's side finished fifth in the Development League Division Two.

The George have to fight for victory

South Staffs Division 1
The George 202
M&B Cheslyn Hay 177

THE George had to battle all the way to overcome top Staffs side M&B Cheslyn Hay. Paddy McGuinness and Dave Hoffman both won 21-13 in the 1st four but The George found themselves five shots behind.

The middle four managed to reduce the deficit to 1 shot after wins by Steve Fagin (21-7), Darren Wood (21-16) and Ivan Smout (21-19). A strong finish by the back four saw Martin McGuinness (21-4), Eric Winstone (21-5) and Peter Hayne (21-16) all win to record a 25 shot victory.

Warwick & Worcester Premier 1: Moseley 228 The George 203 (Mark Street 21-10). Warwick & Worcester Alliance 1: The George 243 (Kevin Arnott 21-3) Ward End 162.

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Thorn and Johnson join scout team

ALBION have appointed former Coventry boss Andy Thorn and ex-Liverpool and Tottenham talent-spotter Mel Johnson as part of a scouting shake-up.

The pair have helped the Baggies finalise their transfer shortlist for this summer.

Thorn, who also had a brief spell as Kidderminster Harriers manager, has been given the task of monitoring targets in the north of England.

And Johnson, who helped Tottenham assess Gareth Bale before his move from Southampton, is looking after the south of the country. The duo are reporting to head of recruitment Mervyn Day and have already played key role in the Baggies' summer plans.

They have effectively replaced Tony Spearing and Stuart White, who left the club last season, although their roles have been amended.

Former Wimbledon and Crystal Palace defender Thorn, aged 48, spent a tough spell in charge of Coventry and lasted just two months as Harriers boss after replacing Steve Burr, but he is a highly-rated scout.

He was working for England boss and former Albion head coach Roy Hodgson assessing opponents before being appointed at Aggborough.

Johnson worked for both Spurs and Liverpool under former sporting director Damien Comolli and is credited with spotting talented Reds winger Jordan Ibe.

Meanwhile, the Baggies are expected to step up their bid for QPR winger Matt Phillips in the next few days after missing out on Demba Ba.

They will also turn their attention to alternative striking targets, with Liverpool's Rickie Lambert still an option if the Reds give him the green light to move on.

Gordon looks to follow heroes in first pro fight

MATTHEW Gordon makes his professional boxing debut on Saturday, looking to emulate some of his heavyweight heroes.

The West Bromwich fighter took up combat sports eight years ago, initially to keep fit. After trying his hand, or should that be fist, at both Mixed Martial Arts and white collar boxing, Gordon is ready to prove his worth in the professional boxing ranks.

During his time as a white collar fighter, Gordon won 20 of his 23 contests and is to make the step into the paid ranks.

"I got into martial arts eight years ago," he confirmed. "After trying MMA, I moved into boxing and linked up with Mark Richards. He has taken me from strength to strength in the unlicensed game.

"I've turned pro because I was on a big winning streak against some of the better guys on the circuit.

Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are still available from Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

Brummies widen gap at top of league

Speedway

BIRMINGHAM pulled seven-points clear at the top of the National League after a 49-41 win at Stoke.

The Surestop Brummies maintained their 100 per cent National League start after fighting back from a six-point, mid-meeting deficit.

Skipper Tom Perry was thrilled with the result. He said: "That was another impressive performance from the boys again and we're so happy to get another win.

"We got off to a fairly slow start, but we came strong in the second part of the meeting once again and pulled off another great win.The whole team battled really well."

Wonder kid Zach Wajtknecht only needed four laps to figure the Loomer Road circuit out to then go and reel off four, straight heat-wins.

Adam Kirby continued his recent, important form at reserve for the Brummies by bagging paid double-figures once again.

Skipper Perry recovered from two third places to go unbeaten by a Stoke rider in his final three rides while guest Max Clegg picked up two race wins on his way to nine-points.

Sam Chapman and Alex Wilson both chipped in with vital contributions and their efforts probably deserved even more points than they secured.

Ben Basford gave his all and his point picked up in Heat Two proved to be significant in the Brummies securing all four National League points.

STOKE 41: Jon Armstrong 11, Shaun Tedham 9+3, Ryan Terry-Daley 6, Lee Payne 6, Chris Widman 5+1, Danny Phillips 3, Paul Burnett 1+1

BIRMINGHAM 49: Zach Wajtknecht 13+1, Adam Kirby 11+2, Tom Perry 9+2, Max Clegg 9, Sam Chapman 5, Alex Wilson 1+1, Ben Basford 1.

● **Strong – page 47**

PULIS PURGES MORE PEOPLE

TONY Pulis has tightened his grip at Albion with the sacking of technical director Terry Burton and recruitment chief Mervyn Day.

The senior duo were placed on gardening leave by the Baggies on Tuesday as Pulis continued his clearout of the football hierarchy at The Hawthorns.

Burton lasted just 13 months and weakened his position by arguing strongly for the appointment of Alan Irvine as head coach.

He was appointed when former sporting and technical director Richard Garlick was moved to a new role.

Day, who was one of Burton's key appointments, has left after just 11 months in charge of the club's scouting setup.

It means Pulis has now effected an almost total purge of the club's football staff since taking charge in January with coaches Keith Downing, Rob Kelly and Dean Kiely already having left along with long-serving scouts Stuart White and Tony Spearing.

Scouting

Pulis is now in charge of all footballing decisions at the club having appointed Gerry Francis, Dave Kemp and Mark O'Connor to his coaching staff and Andy Thorn and Mel Johnson to the scouting set-up.

A club statement said Burton and Day had left 'as part of the on-going review of the club's performance'.

Chairman Jeremy Peace said: "I am on record as saying the Club would be engaged in an on-going review at all levels and it was felt changes were required.

"We are looking ahead positively to a new beginning under Tony Pulis after two gruelling seasons. All our focus now is on preparing the squad for a stronger performance."

Albion say they will look to fill both positions in due course but no appointments are imminent and the roles are likely to change due to Pulis's hands-on approach.

"Our plans for this summer are already in place," said Peace. "In Tony, we have a very experienced and hands-on operator."

Stripes are back at Baggies

Craig Dawson, Darren Fletcher and Joleon Lescott model Albion's striped new home kit

ALBION are back in their traditional stripes as they announced the club's first ever £2m-a-year sponsorship deal.

The Baggies have signed a deal with Asian betting company TLCBET for next season.

And the company's name will adorn a traditional striped shirt with the club, as expected, ditching the controversial pinstripe design after just one season.

The club announced the end of their deal with US-based computer firm Intuit Quickbooks earlier this month with the company signing a new deal to be Villa's main sponsors.

The Baggies infuriated traditionalists a year ago when they abandoned their famous blue and white stripes in favour of a predominantly white design.

But within days they had announced the stripes would return after one season.

The new Adidas kit will also feature a return to white shorts and white socks – a move likely to win support from a majority of fans.

The new kit is available on pre-order and will be on sale in club shops from July 17.

TLCBET is a leading Asian gaming operator and has been Albion's official Asian betting partner since 2013.

Adrian Wright, Albion's sales and marketing director, said: "Our quest to secure the right partner was very important."

Rangers' Austin on Albion radar

ALBION are considering a move for QPR's Charlie Austin as they move on from missing out on Demba Ba.

The Baggies are weighing up alternative targets after Ba shocked his European suitors by choosing a big-money move to China.

And they have enquired about Austin, who looks set to leave Loftus Road this summer following their relegation from the Premier League.

But the Baggies are believed to be outsiders in the race for the 25-year-old former non-league forward, who is attracting strong interest from a host of bigger-paying top-flight clubs including West Ham and Newcastle.

The transfer fee is also expected to be at least £15m, which would eat up a significant chunk of Tony Pulis's transfer funds.

Austin, who previously played for Swindon and Burnley, has netted 38 goals in 73 games for Rangers including 18 last season despite the club's awful campaign.

Meanwhile, Baggies defender Donervon Daniels has joined Wigan on a three-year contract.

The 21-year-old academy product, who had spells on loan at Blackpool and Aberdeen last season, has moved for an initial nominal fee with the deal including add-ons and a sell-on clause.

Also, Albion have snapped up highly-rated teenage goalkeeper Brad House from Arsenal.

The 16-year-old, who was released by the Gunners, has signed for the Baggies' academy and was set to take part in his first training session this week

House was named on the bench four times for Arsenal's under-18s last season and a further four times for the Under-19s.

Wilkins confirmed as Villa's Number 2

VILLA have confirmed football's worst-kept secret by appointing Ray Wilkins as their new assistant manager.

The 58-year-old has joined the club as Tim Sherwood's right-hand man – a move he blurted out during a live TV appearance last week.

The former Chelsea, Manchester United, AC Milan and England midfielder has been out of work since leaving his job as head coach of the Jordanian national team earlier this year.

Manager Tim Sherwood said: "I'm really pleased to bring Ray on board.

"He has a fantastic knowledge of the game."

★★★

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